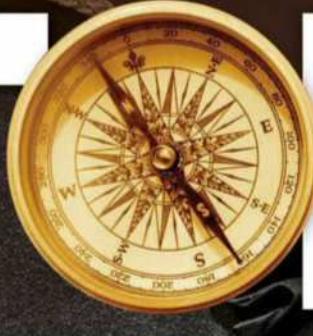




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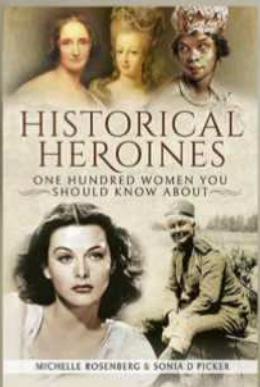
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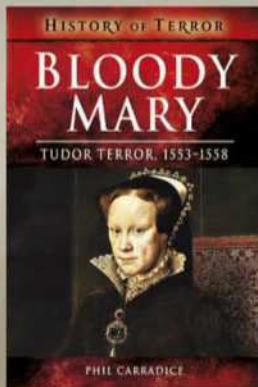


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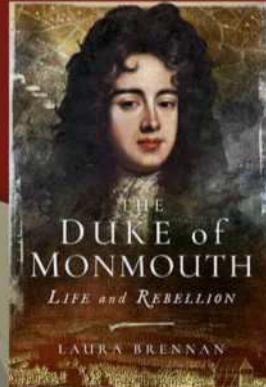
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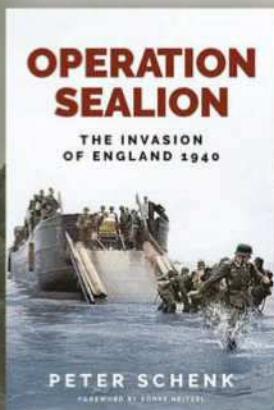
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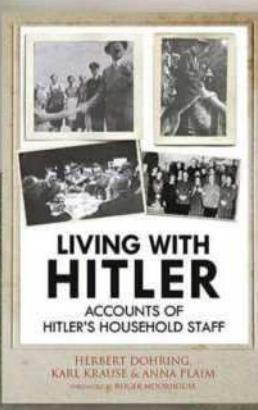
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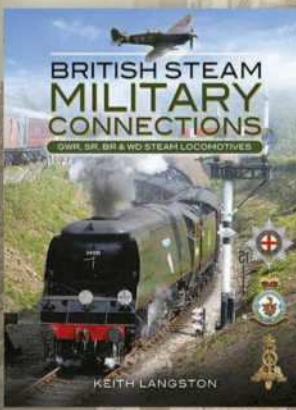
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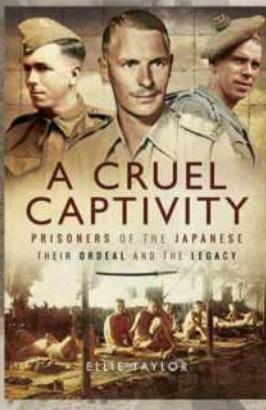
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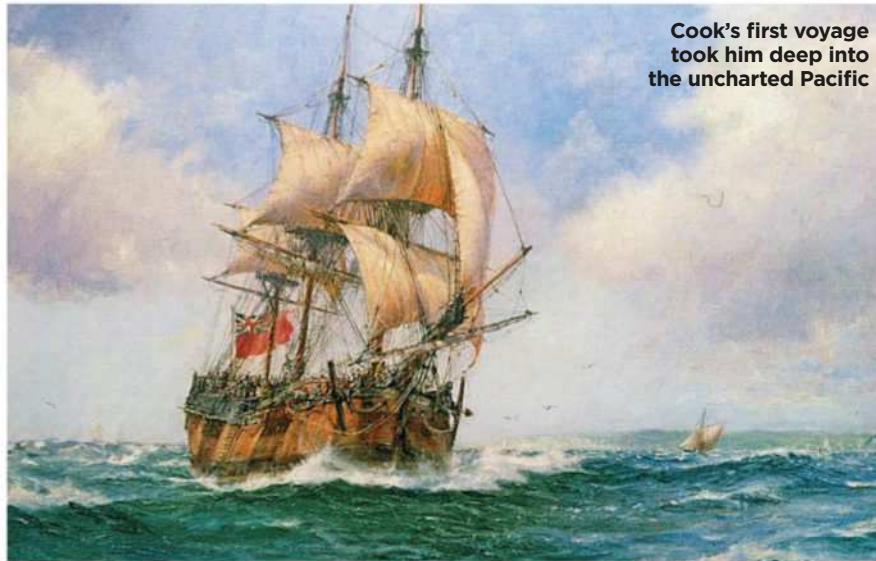
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Cook's first voyage took him deep into the uncharted Pacific



Mission improbable



It sounds far-fetched enough to come from a Hollywood movie. Captain Cook set sail from Plymouth, ostensibly **on a mission of scientific discovery**. But, unbeknownst to his crew, he was carrying a secret secondary quest tucked away in a **sealed envelope not to be opened** until he completed his initial mission. And yet that's exactly what happened 250 years ago this month. Over the course of three pioneering voyages, Cook did more to further humanity's understanding of the world than **pretty much any explorer** you might care to mention. We weigh anchor on page 28.

Aboard for the journey this issue we have a cracking crew of characters – such as **Zenobia, the warrior queen** from the Syrian city of Palmyra, who took on the might of Rome, and won. Then there's the dark **deaths of the Romanovs**, whose reign in Russia came to an end 100 years ago this month. We also feature **the tragic story of Tom Simpson**, the first Englishman to wear the iconic yellow jersey in the Tour de France.

Be sure to write in and tell us what you've thought of the issue!

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our September issue, on sale 9 August

CONTRIBUTORS



Zahi Hawass
A celebrated Egyptologist, archaeologist and former Egyptian Minister of Antiquities, Zahi is currently excavating at the Valley of the Kings. See page 17



Nige Tassell
The author of *Three Weeks, Eight Seconds*, covering the 1989 Tour de France, Nige revisits one of the event's darkest days. See page 64



Miranda Kaufmann
A Senior Research Fellow at the University of London, Miranda's first book, *Black Tudors*, was shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize. See page 61

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

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The monthly wages, in shillings, of black Tudor trumpeter John Blanke in Henry VIII's court. That's equivalent to around £430 in today's coin. See page 61.

9,000

The age in years of what's believed to be the oldest naturally preserved mummy, and it's not Egyptian – it was unearthed from the Atacama Desert in Chile. See page 73.

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People put to death during the Affair of the Poisons, a 17th-century witchcraft scandal in the reign of King Louis XIV of France that involved some of his inner circle – his mistress included. See page 38.

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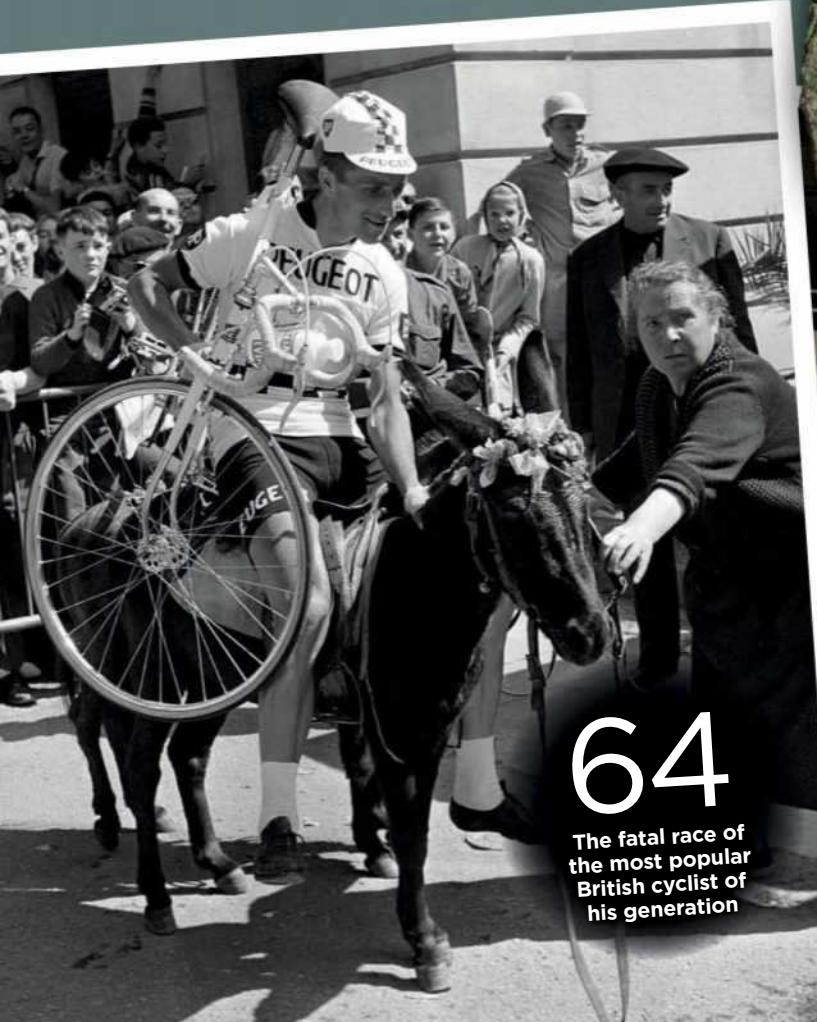
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28 CAPTAIN COOK

The first voyage of the explorer who did more to map the Pacific than any other



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The fatal race of the most popular British cyclist of his generation

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Queen Victoria's coronation was rife with drama



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AUGUST 2018

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Two revolutions put an end to a dynasty that had ruled Russia for 300 years....p46

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Zenobia

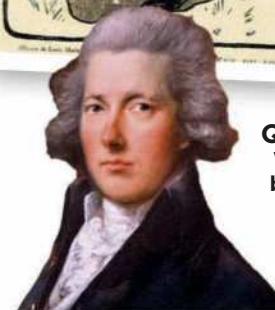
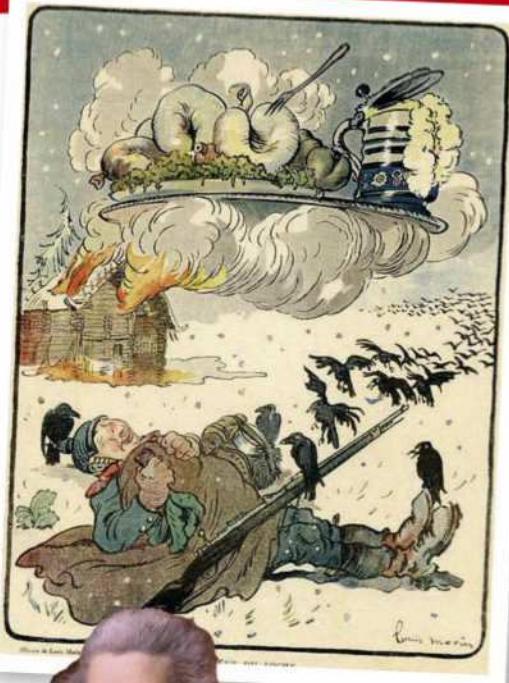
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And how did this man become the youngest British PM?

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1930 BIRD BRR-RAIN

Recreating a proper habitat for penguins can be tricky for any zoo that doesn't boast a naturally chilly climate. On a piping hot August day, this British keeper has to take steps to protect his charges from heat exhaustion – so he grabs a watering can. The impromptu showers must be doing the trick, as the penguin in the background seems impatient for its turn.





1989 AN EIFFEL EYEFUL

Beginning at the Palais de Chaillot and crossing the Seine, high-wire artist Philippe Petit slowly makes his way along a 700-metre cable towards the Eiffel Tower. The 40-year-old Frenchman had been arrested for previous stunts – including at Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Twin Towers in New York – but this one had the rubber stamp of approval, forming part of the bicentenary celebrations marking the French Revolution. A quarter of million watched as he took one petit step at a time, and as he stopped to strip off his silver costume, revealing a rainbow bodysuit.



100 ans



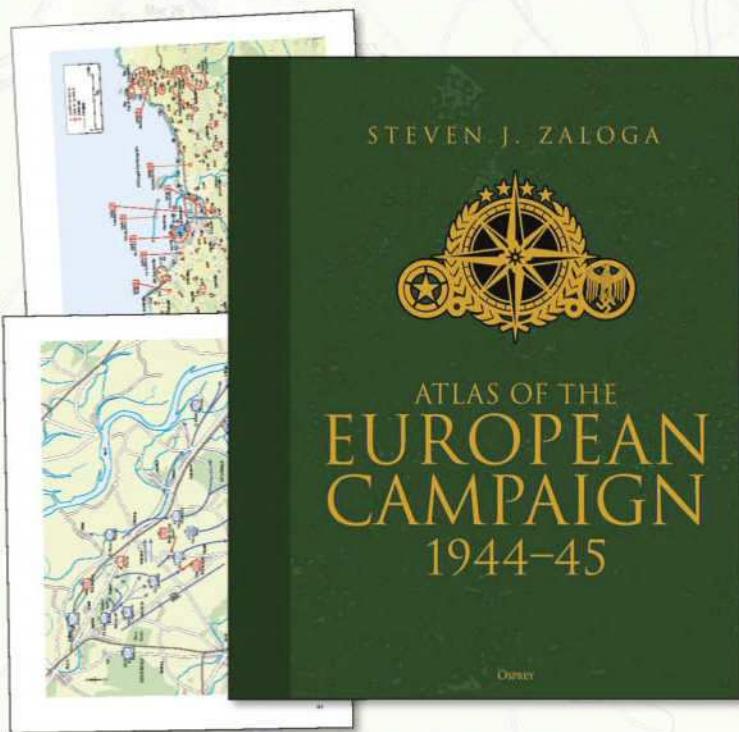




1952 DEVON OR HELL

Heavy rain had plagued Devon for weeks in the summer of 1952, but nearly 23cm falling in 24 hours proved to be too much. On the night of 15/16 August, a torrent of water rushed down from Exmoor, flooding the coastal village of Lynmouth and battering it with massive boulders carried by the deluge. Buildings and bridges were destroyed, while cars and moored boats were washed out to sea. In the aftermath, the residents, many now homeless, search for the missing. In all, 34 people died.

ATLAS OF THE EUROPEAN CAMPAIGN 1944–45



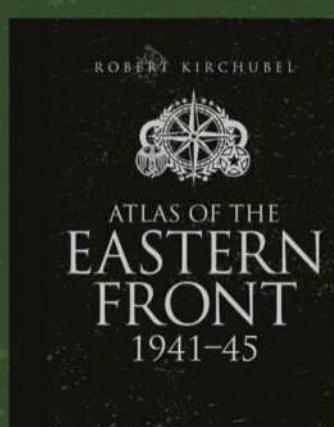
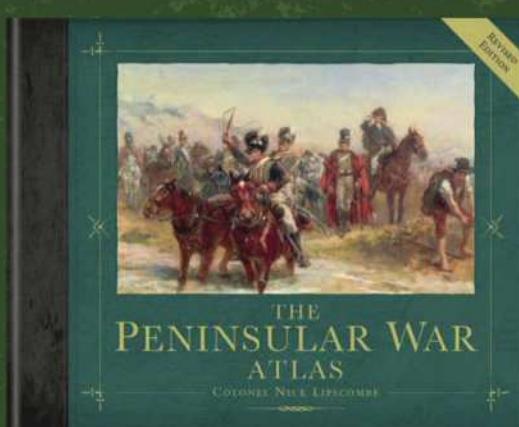
A LUXURIOUSLY BOUND TREASURE
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In June 1944 the Allies opened the long-awaited second front against Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy. This was to be the start of a long struggle throughout Western Europe for the Allied forces in the face of stiff German resistance.

Featuring 127 full colour maps, *Atlas of the European Campaign* displays the ebb and flow of the Allies' epic advance through France and northern Europe. Coupled with incisive commentary by Steven J. Zaloga, this stunning slip-cased atlas is the perfect gift for any military history enthusiast.

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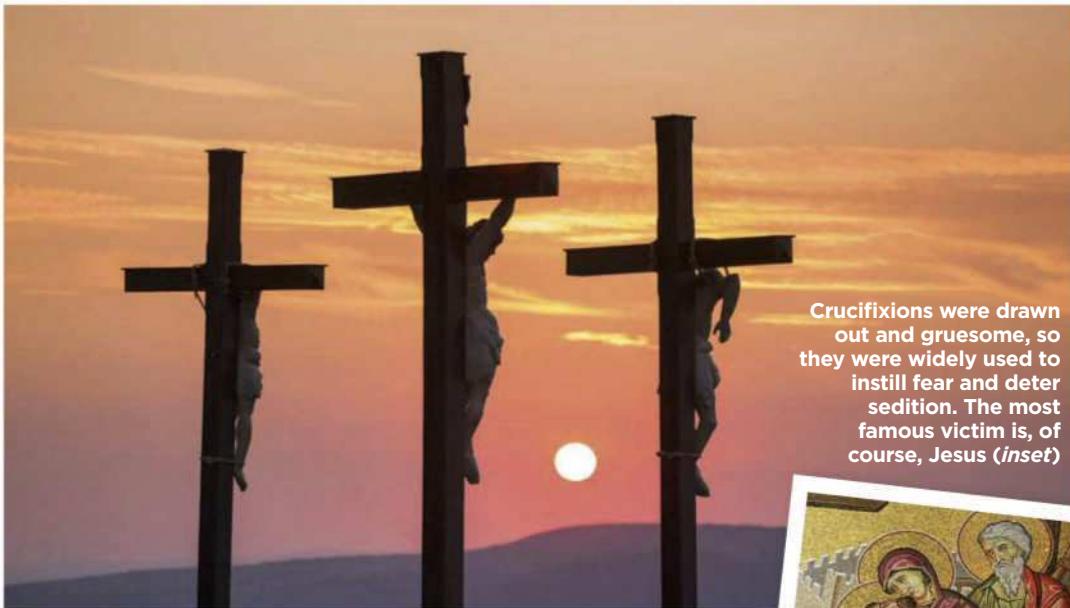
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HISTORY IN THE NEWS



Crucifixions were drawn out and gruesome, so they were widely used to instill fear and deter sedition. The most famous victim is, of course, Jesus (inset)

SECOND-EVER CRUCIFIXION VICTIM DISCOVERED

The remains of a suspected slave found near Venice are only the second that have been linked to death on the cross

Rare evidence of a crucifixion has been uncovered in Italy – it's only the second time a victim of this form of punishment has been found. Although crucifixion as a means of execution has been referenced for centuries, most prominently in the *New Testament* with the death of Jesus, only one case had been confirmed until now.

The body, found in Venice in 2007, has been tested by the Universities of Ferrara and Florence. Researchers spotted an unhealed fracture on the man's heel bone, suggesting that it had been nailed to a cross. The body was buried directly in the ground,

rather than in a tomb, indicating that he was an executed prisoner. Through genetic testing, researchers believe the man was in his early 30s when he died, and his slim frame suggests underfeeding, so the theory is that he was a slave.

Victims of crucifixion are difficult to identify, as without a proper burial the human body deteriorates quicker, and it seems that nails were removed from the corpses to be used again – making victims of this form of execution harder to pinpoint.

"The difficulties in preserving damaged bones and, subsequently, in interpreting traumas, hinder the recognition



of crucifixion victims, making this testimony even more precious," says study co-author Ursula Thun Hohenstein.

Crucifixion involved the victim being nailed to a wooden cross by the wrists and feet. Death was slow, typically the result of blood loss, asphyxiation or shock.

It was a common form of punishment in the Roman Empire – 6,000 slaves who joined Spartacus's revolt were crucified in c71 BC – though the evidence suggests it was used much earlier. Alexander the Great reportedly did the same to the survivors of the Siege of Tyre in 332 BC.

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Celebrated Egyptologist Zahi Hawassp17



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William Wallace breathes his last.....p20



TIME CAPSULE: 1838

Significant events from one year in historyp22



CROWDFUNDED PROJECT HOPES TO FIND A SECOND LINDISFARNE

The diggers are searching for the famous monastery's sister site

A crowdfunding project is leading the way to unearthing a Scottish sister monastery to Lindisfarne in Northumberland. DigVentures, a collaborative archaeological excavation business, is leading the attempt to find the ruins of a monastery at Coldingham, Berwickshire. It's believed to have been built on the instructions of Princess Aebbe, sister of Saint Oswald, a 7th-century king of Northumbria.

Lindisfarne, most famous for being raided by Vikings in AD 793, was founded by Saint Aidan at Oswald's request around AD 634. It seems that Aebbe was inspired to establish her own monastery, 26 miles away at Coldingham, later in the same century. The Saxon scholar Bede described it as a "monastery of virgins" and it was there that Queen Æthelthryth – later Saint Etheldreda – took the veil and became a nun. The monastery burned down after



Experts and volunteers investigate one of the three trenches

Aebbe's death, but was rebuilt. It then thrived until a Viking attack in AD 870 destroyed it.

Aebbe considered extremely influential in spreading Christianity in the Scottish Borders. A few burials and sculptures possibly linked to her monastery have been found over the years, but it was a 2014 geophysical survey – which provided evidence of Anglo-Saxon structures in new location – that has sparked fresh excitement.

Crowdfunding raised more than £7,000 and the dig began on 19 June. "So far, we have discovered a series of ditches, some possibly even stretching back into the prehistoric period long before St Aebbe's time," says a DigVentures spokesperson. "One in particular looks very like a boundary ditch, and has produced promising evidence of 7th-century activity. Stay tuned!"

SIX OF THE BEST... PRESERVED RELIGIOUS SITES

Our pick of the most impressive and significant across the globe



1 PARTHENON, GREECE

Perched on the rocky citadel of the Acropolis, this is one of the best surviving buildings of Classical Greece. Dedicated to the goddess Athena, the ruins date to the fifth century BC.



2 MEZQUITA, SPAIN

Built on the site of a third-century church, the 'Mosque-Cathedral of Córdoba' began as a grand mosque in the 8th century. A Catholic cathedral was added following the reconquesta.



3 ANGKOR WAT, CAMBODIA

The largest religious monument in the world at more than 400 acres, Angkor Wat was built in the 12th century as a Hindu temple and later transformed into a Buddhist one.



4 ETCHMIADZIN, ARMENIA

This cathedral is considered the oldest in the world. In AD 301, Armenia became the first country to adopt Christianity as its state religion; the cathedral was built shortly after this.



5 ST MARTIN'S, CANTERBURY

Originally the private chapel of Bertha, wife of King Æthelberht of Kent, this unassuming parish church is the oldest in the entire English-speaking world that's still in continuous use.



6 EL CASTILLO, MEXICO

This step pyramid, built around AD 800, dominated the skyline of the Mayan city of Chichen Itza. During the spring and autumn equinoxes, an illusion of a great serpent appears on it.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Keeping your facial hair in check has been a priority for centuries, for practical purposes rather than fashion



Throughout history, having a beard has been seen as a sign of power and virility, but it could also be a nuisance. This elaborately decorated razor, dating back to the Bronze Age, was found in the Danish district of Viborg. Such razors are thought to have been considered cherished items as they were often buried with their owners. The oldest razor-like object unearthed is from 18,000 BC, showing that shaving and keeping your beard trimmed was important in some of the earliest cultures.

IN THE NEWS

MYSTERY OF THE DURHAM SKELETONS SOLVED

The slain soldiers perished during the British Civil Wars

Skeletons discovered in Durham in 2013 have finally been identified as Scottish soldiers who fought in the Battle of Dunbar in 1650.

In this clash, part of the British Civil Wars, Covenanters supporting Charles II's claim to the Scottish throne were slaughtered by Oliver Cromwell's Parliamentarians. It's thought that these remains

– belonging to up to 28 individuals, all men aged 13 to 25 – were of those taken prisoner in the aftermath and held captive in Durham.

The bones were discovered in mass graves adjacent to Durham Cathedral during construction of a new café for the University of Durham, and were identified using radiocarbon dating and tooth enamel samples.

After the research was completed, the remains were reburied near where they were found. The story of how experts solved the mystery will be told in an exhibition at Durham University's Palace Green Library until October.



The remains were found jumbled up in two large pits

REWIND

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs
that bring the past to life

BONNIE PARKER, c1932

Outlaw Bonnie Parker - of Bonnie and Clyde fame - poses with a cigar in her mouth, an image that led newspapers of the day to brand her the "cigar-smoking gun moll".

Bonnie, Clyde and their gang killed at least nine police officers and several bystanders during their crime spree.

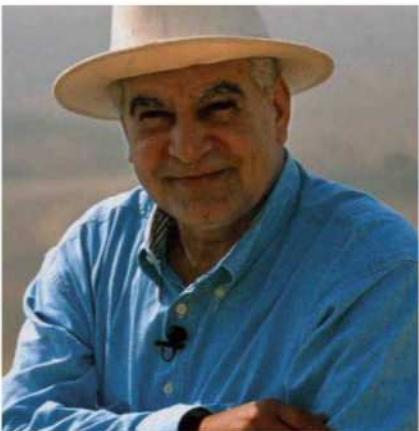


GETTY
See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral @marinamaral2

YOUR HISTORY

Zahi Hawass

The archaeologist and former Egyptian Minister of State for Antiquities Affairs tells us why Imhotep was no villain, and where he hopes to find the next royal tomb



You can see relics from the Tutankhamun's tomb at the King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh exhibition in Los Angeles until spring 2019, after which it will move to Europe.

Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

I would change the First Intermediate Period of Ancient Egypt, which saw the decline of the Old Kingdom. Ipwer, a wise man and vizier, advised the Pharaoh – perhaps Pepi II – to look after the country, but the King did not listen. Ipwer explains that “the rich became poor, the poor became rich ... and the enemy is waiting in Sinai for the opportunity to get in the country.” I would make this period shorter so the glory of the pharaohs could have continued.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

I would like to meet Khufu. He is the King that I have always loved all my life. I lived in front of his pyramid, the Great Pyramid of Giza, for many years. It is one of the greatest architectural

buildings in the world, one that scientists still wonder how it was constructed. He also wrote a sacred book

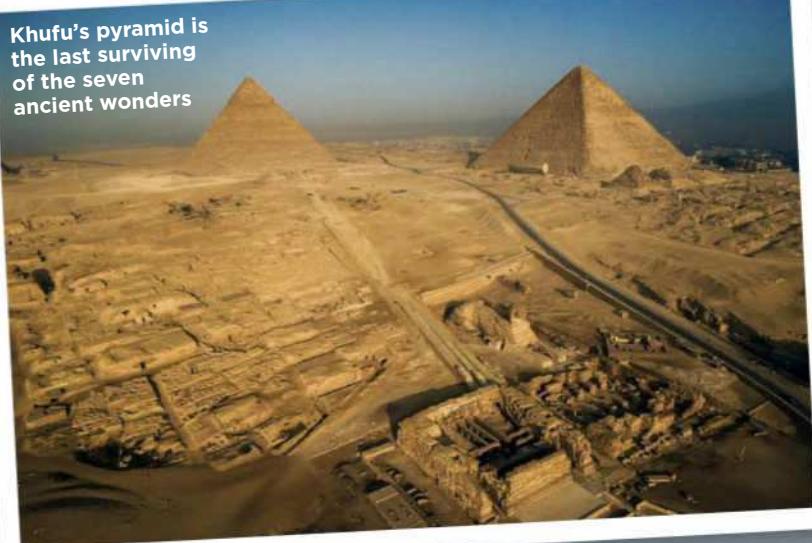
we know about from the Egyptian priest Manetho, but it has never been found.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I would go to the Valley of the Monkeys in Luxor. It has never been fully excavated, unlike the East Valley. It's a special place where kings' tombs were hidden. This is why I started the largest excavation expedition in this valley three months ago. I hope a new royal tomb may be discovered.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

Imhotep. This man was a commoner and not from a wealthy background, but he had a talent that made Djoser, the first pharaoh of the Third Dynasty, appoint him as chancellor. He changed architecture from mudbrick into limestone and we can consider him the first person on Earth to have made a ceiling and pillar out of stone. The Ancient Egyptians worshipped him as a god and connected him with the Greek god of medicine, Asclepius.



“Scientists still wonder how the Great Pyramid of Giza was constructed”

BLACK-OUT
TO-NIGHT

6.3

PETROL TO BE DEARER: Back Page

NEARER THE BONE-
SWEETER THE MEAT
WITH H-P SAUCE

DAILY
SKETCH

No. 9,501

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1939

ONE PENNY

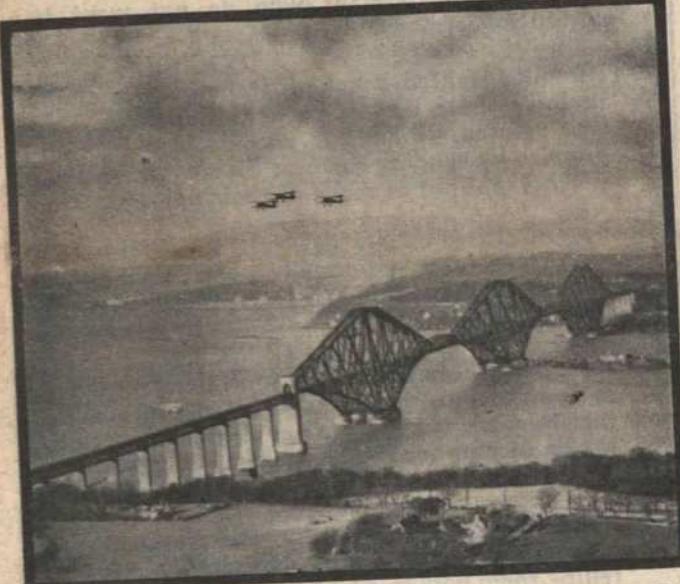
OUR WAR
RELIEF
FUND

PAGE THREE

RADIO: PAGE 16

BRITAIN DEFEATS FIRST AIR RAID

German Bombers Brought Down



The Firth of Forth, in which one of the raiders was brought down. The Forth Bridge was not hit.

GERMAN BOMBERS FAILED YESTERDAY IN THE FIRST AIR RAID ON BRITAIN OF THE WAR.

The raid was made on the Rosyth area of the Firth of Forth. There were no civilian casualties and no damage to property.

Three Nazi machines were brought down—one in the Firth and two in Fifeshire. Hundreds of people saw the raid which took place in brilliant sunshine.

The German raiders were engaged by R.A.F. fighters and anti-aircraft guns around Edinburgh and on both sides of the river. The surviving raiders were driven out to sea.

Crowd See Air Raid Chase

Two bare announcements told the official story of the raid. The first from the Air Ministry read:

"The Air Ministry announces that German aircraft attempted to attack coastal objectives in Scotland this afternoon. The R.A.F. engaged the raiders and inflicted casualties upon them."

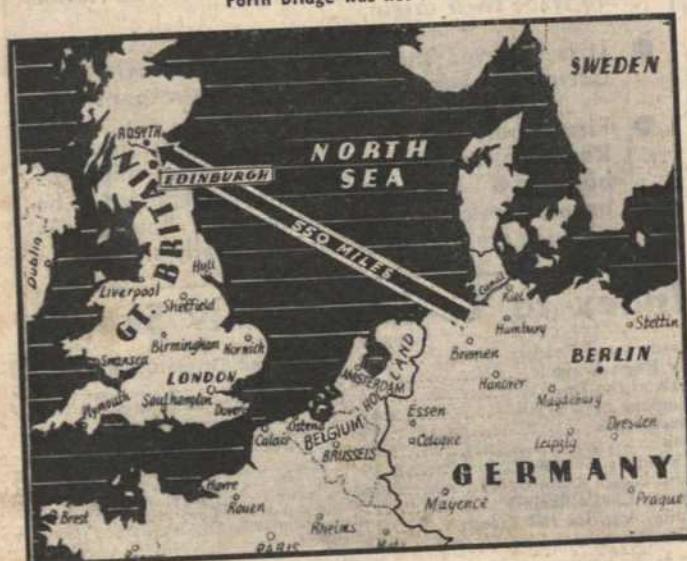
The second was a communiqué from the Ministry of Home Security, reading: "Reports received up to date indicate that there has been no civilian casualties and no damage to property as a result of enemy action."

The firing round Edinburgh brought people flocking into the streets, but no air-raid siren was sounded.

South of the city, towards the Pentland Hills, some aircraft were seen apparently in pursuit of several other machines.

From several parts of the city came reports that pieces of shrapnel were picked up in the streets.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE



"Daily Sketch" map shows the area of the raid.

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

FIRST BOMBS FALL ON WWII BRITAIN

Spitfires won the day by repelling the raid, but the newspaper front pages did not tell the whole story

The declaration of war on 3 September 1939 sent Britons rushing to prepare for what many feared would be an overwhelming aerial bombing campaign by the Germans. Shelters went up and gas masks were bought, while the Royal Air Force scrambled fighters. But the air raids everyone anticipated didn't come immediately.

Hitler wanted to avoid antagonising Britain too strongly and too quickly – even talking of peace at a Reichstag speech on 6 October – so the targets had to be selected carefully. And so the opening raid was not against a city, but a major naval base at Rosyth on the River Forth, on Scotland's east coast.

It was on 16 October that four groups of three Junkers Ju 88 bombers, led by Helmuth Pohle, took off with the aim of sinking the battlecruiser HMS *Hood*. There was one problem: the German sorties flown that morning had mistaken another vessel for the *Hood*. Their intended target wasn't at Rosyth.

But there were other ships on the water, so Pohle launched the attack anyway. He dived at an 80° angle, during which his aircraft's canopy cracked and flew off, then dropped the first 500kg bombs. A train from Edinburgh to Aberdeen was crossing the Forth Bridge at that moment: passenger Edward

Thompson recalled seeing columns of water shooting up as the bombs hit the river, and witnessing planes flying parallel to the rails.

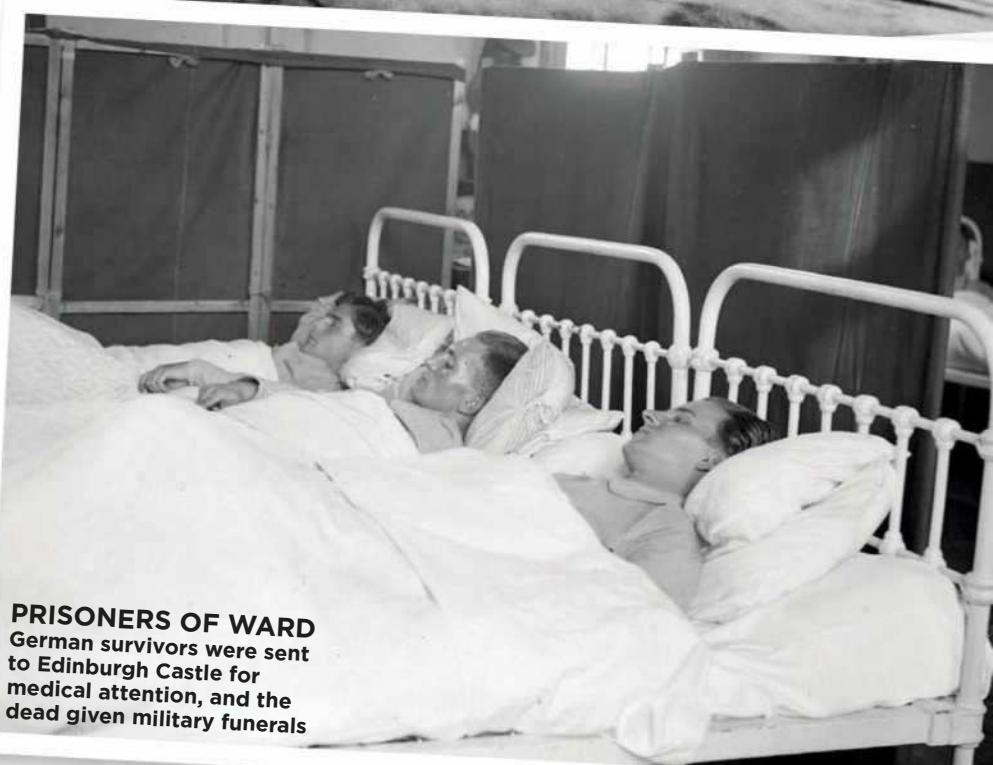
Britain's early warning systems had failed, but Spitfires from No 602 and 603 Squadrons soon entered the fray – their first major test. They shot down one bomber and forced another, Pohle's, to ditch. A third Ju 88 was so badly crippled that the crew perished as they attempted an emergency landing.

In the naval yard, two cruisers sustained damage and a near hit on HMS *Mohawk* killed 16, including the captain, who succumbed only after getting the destroyer into dock. News of the deaths was not made public, so the papers focused on the zero civilian fatalities and the successful British response.

Yet lessons had to be learned, especially after the Germans carried out a further raid at Scapa Flow – home to another naval base – the next day. Improvements to early-warning systems proved life-saving once the Blitz began the following year. ©

JUNK SQUAD

Junkers Ju 88s were more than bombers – they were also used as night fighters, recon planes and modified into flying bombs



PRISONERS OF WARD

German survivors were sent to Edinburgh Castle for medical attention, and the dead given military funerals

THIS MONTH IN... 1305

Anniversaries that have made history

WILLIAM WALLACE IS EXECUTED

Legendary Scottish hero William Wallace, rebellious thorn in the side of Edward I of England, meets his maker in horrific fashion

When you think of the Scottish hero William Wallace, you'd be forgiven for first imagining actor Mel Gibson covered in blue paint and crying "Freedom!" However loved the 1995 film *Braveheart* is, it gives little away about the true story of the lionised Scottish rebel.

Wallace's execution on 23 August 1305 is of the most gruesome variety. Found guilty of treason, he was taken to the Tower of London, where he was stripped, tied to a hurdle and dragged through the streets by horses. He was then hanged, drawn and quartered, with his bowels burnt before him.

Precipitating this grisly death were years of leading the first organised resistance against English rule in Scotland. In the early 13th century, Scotland had been a peaceful country under the rule of Alexander III. Following his death in 1286, the crown passed to Margaret, the Maid of Norway, a three-year-old. Her sudden demise in 1290 plunged the country into turmoil. To avoid a civil war, Edward I of England was asked to arbitrate for the Scottish nobles competing for the throne, which he did – but then he set about undermining the authority of the chosen monarch, John Balliol. In 1296, the King of England invaded.

William Wallace is a man of murky origins, but by this time he probably had military experience, possibly in Edward's Welsh campaign. His first documented act of defiance was the killing of a sheriff in May 1297; one 15th-century poem of dubious veracity suggests the killing of Wallace's wife was the catalyst for this. He then joined with other military leaders in skirmishes against English forces, and by September won a pitched battle at Stirling Bridge despite

being vastly outnumbered. Now proven as a competent military leader, Wallace was subsequently appointed as Guardian of Scotland, the de facto head of state; Balliol had been forced to abdicate in 1296.

Wallace would battle Edward I's army again at Falkirk – a devastating defeat that led to him resigning as Guardian. His movements after this are unclear, but it's believed he travelled to the continent to seek support for the Scottish cause. In 1303, many of his countrymen submitted to Edward as their overlord, but Wallace refused to do.

On 5 August 1305, a Scottish knight loyal to Edward, John de Menteith, turned Wallace over to soldiers at Robroyston. Tried for treason with no jury, lawyers or the chance to defend himself, he was found guilty. He denied the charges, saying: "I could not be a traitor to Edward, for I was never his subject." After his execution, his head was placed on a spike on London Bridge, while his limbs were displayed across the land.

His life has since been romanticised in literature as well as on the silver screen. Today, he's seen as the true spirit of Scottish independence. ◎

BRAVE BRUCE?
The epithet *Braveheart*, used in the 1995 Mel Gibson film (right), actually refers to Robert the Bruce, who became King of Scots in 1306





STANDING TALL

The Wallace Monument overlooks the site of the Battle of Stirling Bridge, where Wallace won his greatest victory

**“Never submit to live,
my son, in the bonds
of slavery entwined”**

William Wallace

TIME CAPSULE 1838

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

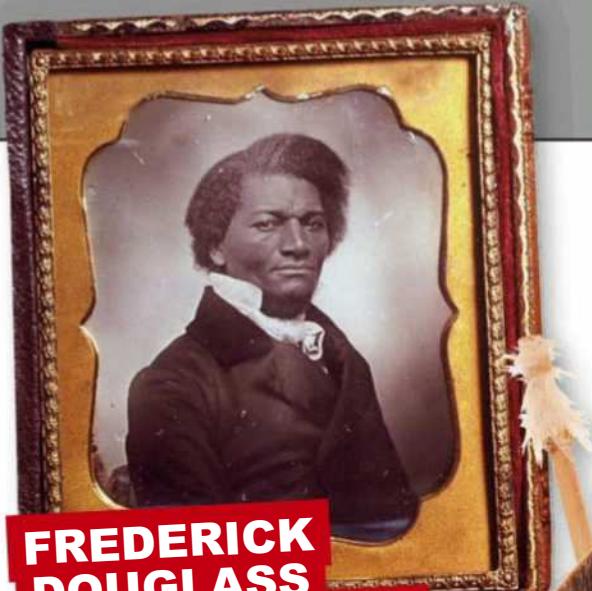
QUEEN VICTORIA'S CORONATION

Queen Victoria wrote in her diary of the awe she felt at seeing "millions of my loyal subjects" as she made her way to Westminster Abbey for her coronation on 28 June, though as with so many teenage diary entries – the young Queen was just 19 – it embellishes the truth somewhat. The assembled crowd was in the region of 400,000.

The unrehearsed five-hour ceremony that followed did not go to plan. The elderly Lord Rolle fell down the stairs to the throne, Victoria was handed the orb early and the Archbishop of Canterbury jammed the coronation ring on the wrong finger; it took an hour of soaking her hand in icy water to remove it. Still, she described the moment that the crown was placed on her head as the "most beautiful impressive moment".

DEVOUT DIARIST
Victoria continued writing journals throughout her reign, and had completed 122 volumes by her death in 1901





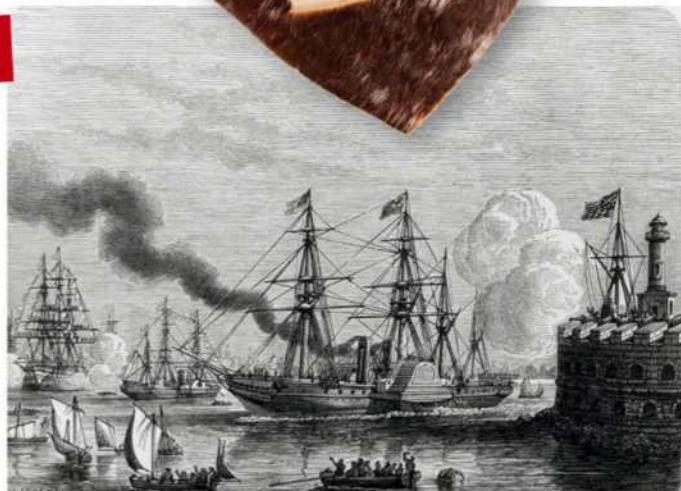
FREDERICK DOUGLASS ESCAPES SLAVERY

Before he was Frederick Douglass, the leading abolitionist, he was Frederick Bailey, the slave. He escaped bondage on 3 September by making a perilous journey from Baltimore to Philadelphia. Disguised as a sailor and carrying the papers of a free black seaman in his pocket, he boarded a train intent on bluffing his way to freedom. He had to get past the conductor by using sailor lingo he had picked up. It worked and the next day, Bailey – soon to change his name – was starting a new life.



MAIDEN VOYAGE OF SS GREAT WESTERN

While not as large or famous as his SS Great Britain, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's earlier steamship was the first built with an Atlantic crossing in mind. The paddle-wheeled, oak-hulled SS Great Western sailed on 8 April from Bristol to New York, but only after a fire in the engine room. It spooked most of the ticket holders, so the ship set off with only seven passengers.



DIED: 1 SEPTEMBER WILLIAM CLARK

The soldier-explorer died peacefully in his late 60s, sending his hometown of St Louis, Missouri, into mourning. He was one of the leaders of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the early 19th-century mission to explore the western reaches of the North American continent and its Pacific shore.



BOERS MASSACRED BY ZULUS

Piet Retief had hoped to claim land in Zulu-ruled territory in what is now South Africa for his group of Boers. Negotiations with the Zulu King, Dingane, seemed to go well, ending with an invitation to observe a ritualistic dance on 6 February. But then with a cry of "Bambani aba thakathi" ("Catch the wizards!"), Dingane ordered the 100 or so Boers killed, leaving Retief for last.

ALSO IN 1838...

6 JANUARY

Long-distance communication takes a step forward with the first demonstration of the telegraph, developed by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail. They send a message on a journey of two miles in Morristown, New Jersey.

21 JANUARY

The first temperature acknowledged to be the 'lowest in the world' is recorded in Yakutsk, Russia. The conditions dropped to -60°C.

24 FEBRUARY

US congressman William Graves kills fellow representative Jonathan Cilley in a rifle duel. It prompts the introduction of a bill to ban duelling in the District of Columbia, which passes in 1839.

31 MARCH

Chapman and Hall publishes the first of 20 instalments of *Nicholas Nickleby*, the latest novel by up-and-coming literary sensation Charles Dickens.

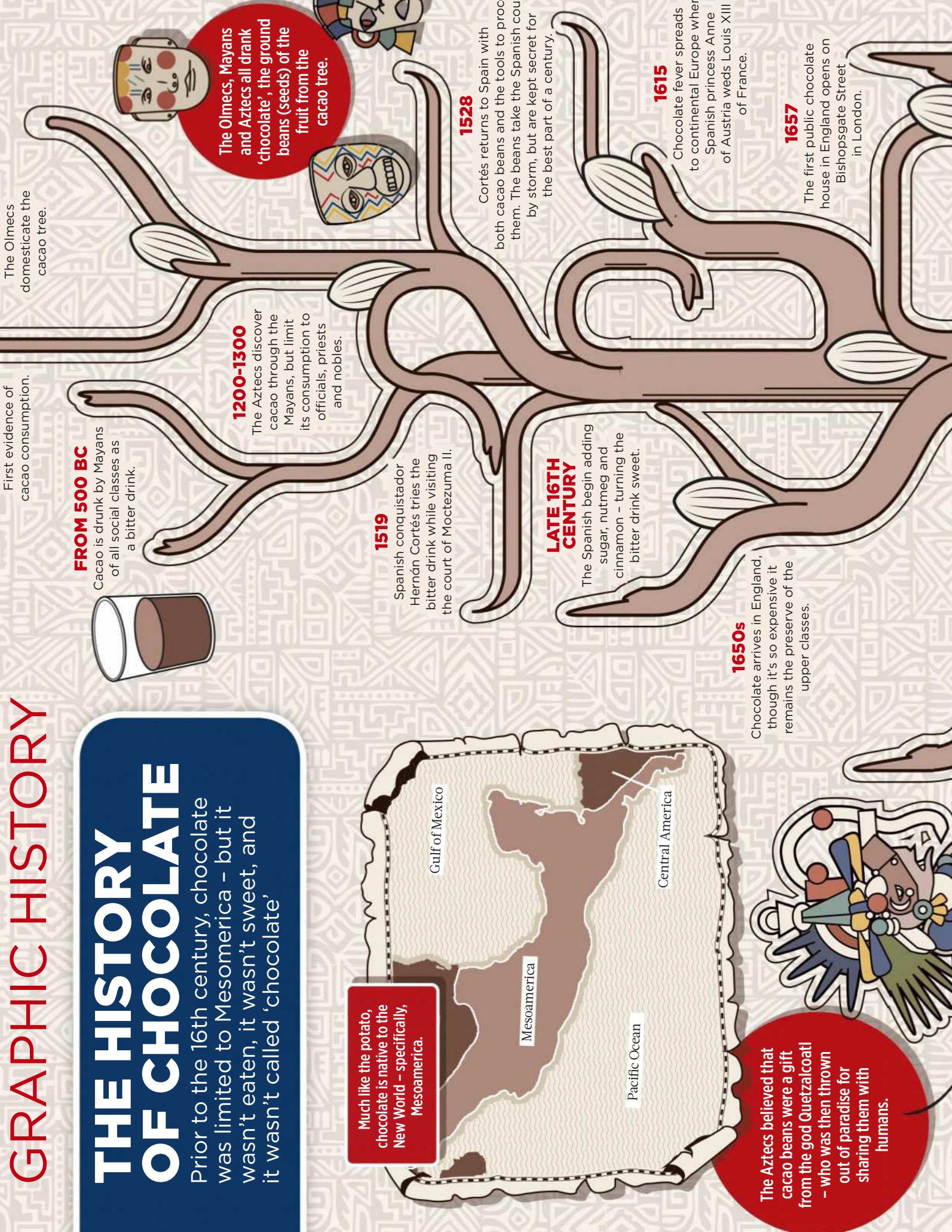
30 APRIL

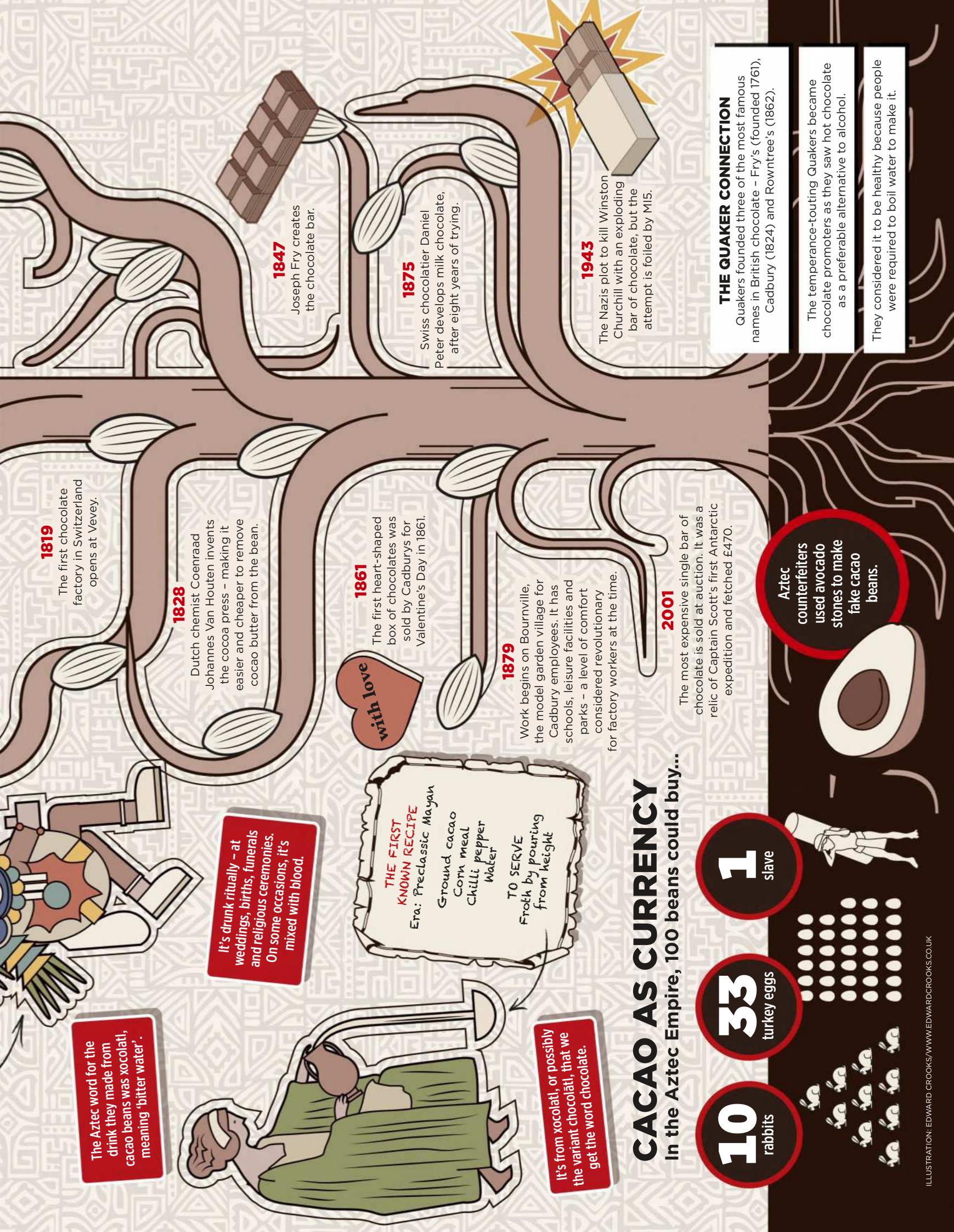
Nicaragua declares independence from the short-lived United Provinces of Central America, but rapidly plunges into a series of civil wars.

BORN: 2 SEPTEMBER LILI'UOKALANI

When her brother died in 1891, Lili'uokalani became Hawaii's first queen – and its last monarch. Two years later, she was overthrown by Americans aiming to seize the island nation. An attempt to restore her ended in failure, house arrest and, later, her forced abdication. Hawaii joined the US in 1898.









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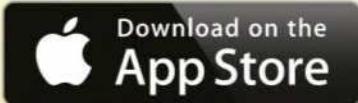
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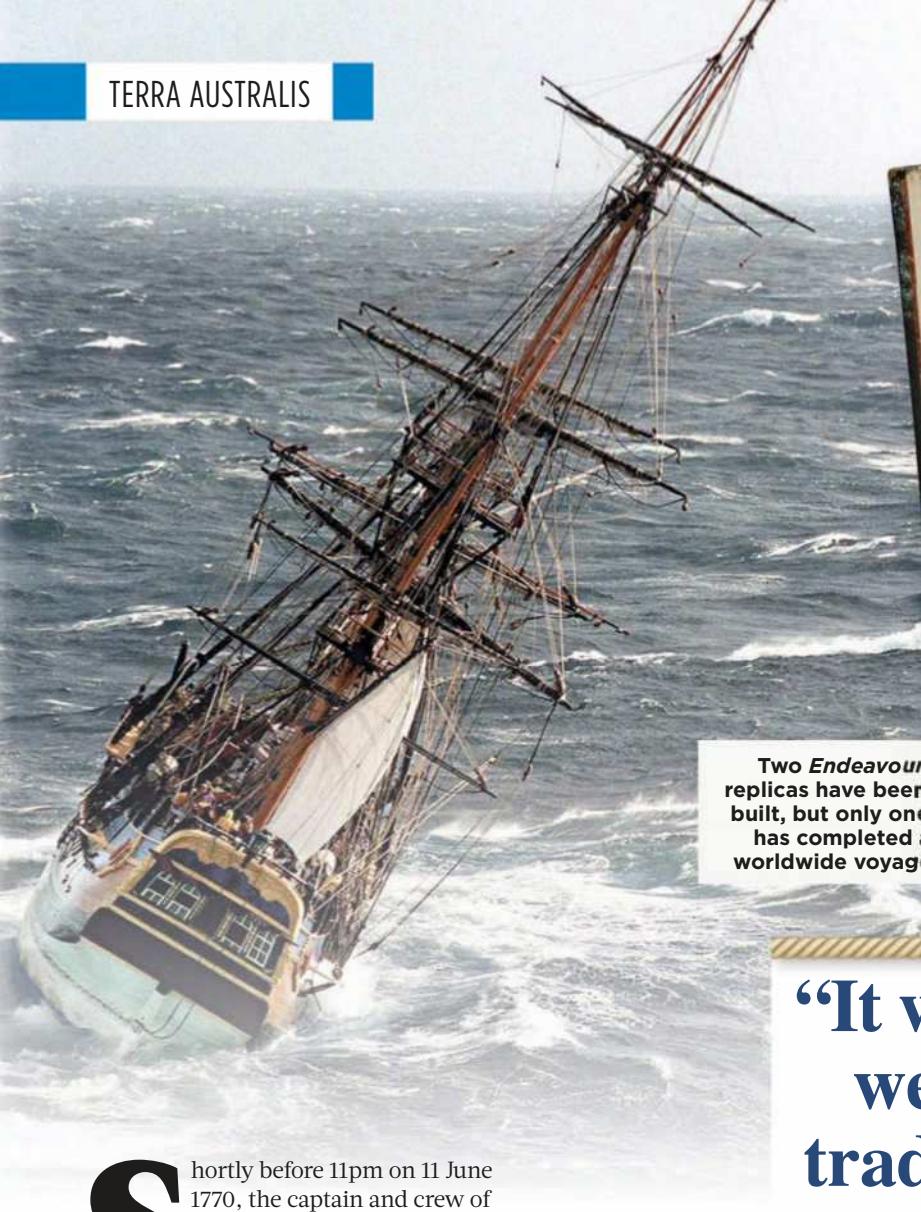
James Cook's first voyage took him into waters uncharted and to lands unknown



The secret mission of **CAPTAIN COOK** Britain's greatest explorer and the search for the lost continent

Pat Kinsella retraces James Cook's first voyage of discovery, a globe-spanning tale of peril and adventure that took him off the edge of the map





Two *Endeavour* replicas have been built, but only one has completed a worldwide voyage

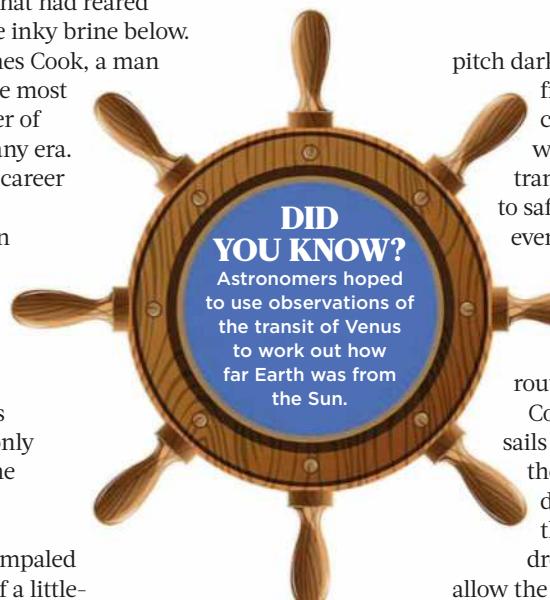


“It was an unfamiliar place, well beyond the pale of trading or whaling routes. Rescue was not likely”

Shortly before 11pm on 11 June 1770, the captain and crew of HMS *Endeavour*, a lonely little ship an awfully long way from home, experienced a sickening shudder. The belly of their boat was being gored by a reef that had reared unexpectedly from the inky brine below.

The captain was James Cook, a man destined to become the most famous British explorer of his era, and arguably any era. Despite beginning his career at the tail end of the Age of Discovery, when the European powers had already planted their flags in most of the world, Cook was about to claim an enormous prize for his king. But that would only count for anything if he made it home alive to tell anyone about it.

The *Endeavour* lay impaled off the tropical coast of a little-understood land known to Cook and his contemporaries as New Holland, but to us as Australia. The odds were not good. Cook was on his first major voyage as a captain, and suddenly it looked like it might be his last. It was



pitch dark and they were 24 miles from land. The *Endeavour* carried three small boats, woefully inadequate for transporting the 90-plus crew to safety should she sink. And even if they did make it to shore, this was a wild and utterly unfamiliar place, well beyond the pale of trading or whaling routes. Rescue was not likely.

Cook barked an order for the sails to be dropped to prevent the wounded vessel being dragged farther across the reef, then for a keding anchor to be dropped. This, he hoped, would allow the *Endeavour* to be physically dragged back out into open water.

When this desperate effort failed, Cook ordered the crew to begin lobbing anything heavy overboard. Iron and stone ballast went first, but cannon soon followed, then the precious drinking

water, spewed out over the side in the hope that the lightened ship would be refloated by the rise of the morning tide.

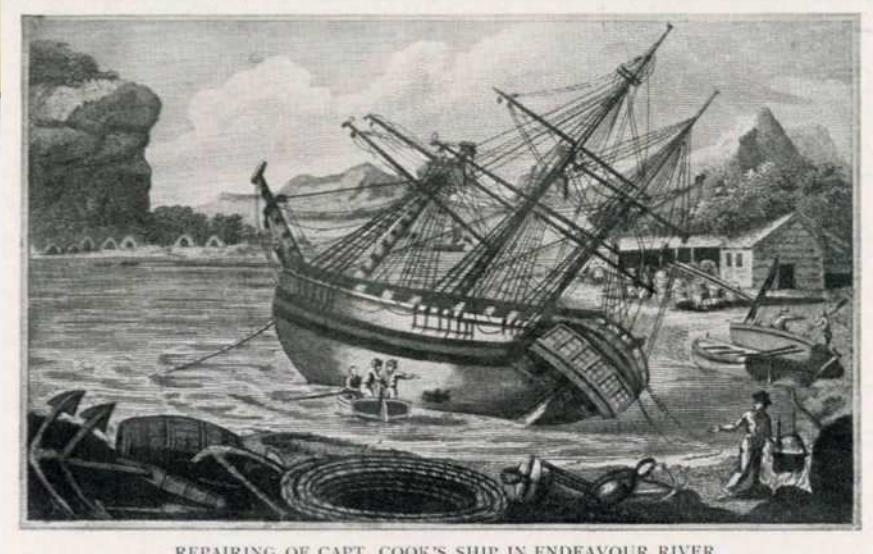
Cook estimated that 51 tonnes of equipment was jettisoned, but come the morning the *Endeavour* remained stuck. Now working in daylight, a team took a brace of bower anchors out on a long boat, and rigged up a block-and-tackle system to try and drag the ship free on the evening tide.

Below decks, water was gushing in through the holes made by the coral. Cook realised this would become much worse if and when the *Endeavour* escaped the reef's clutches, and if his crew weren't able to pump the water out quicker than it poured in, most of them were as good as dead.

Joseph Banks, a gentleman botanist travelling on board, later described the calm efficiency with which the men laboured and responded to the captain's commands. But Cook knew that, after almost two years at sea, during which



HERE & LEFT:
The expedition was
a scientific triumph,
returning specimens
of plants, fish,
crabs and more



REPAIRING OF CAPT. COOK'S SHIP IN ENDEAVOUR RIVER

he'd charted the coastline of New Zealand and much of Australia's Pacific coast, his expedition was poised on the edge of complete calamity.

If the *Endeavour* went down here, news of her crew would never be known back home, and all the charts and scientific samples they had collected would be drowned along with the men.

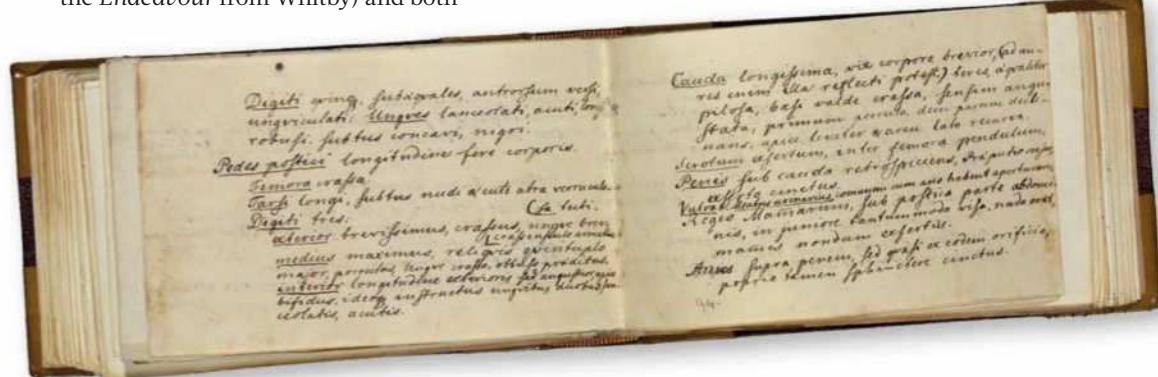
CAPTAIN SENSIBLE

In many ways, the captain and his ship were a perfectly matched but extremely odd couple. Both hailed from Yorkshire (Cook from farmland around Marton, the *Endeavour* from Whitby) and both

had started service with the Royal Navy relatively late in life, both after a spell with the merchant navy hauling coal around.

The *Endeavour*, a classic 'Whitby cat' collier originally called the *Earl of Pembroke*, had been chosen for the 1768 mission because of her deep hold and flat bottom. This design allowed for storage, but also meant she could be taken closer to wild shores than other ships and be repaired without the need for a dry dock – a factor that proved invaluable.

Cook got the gig because of his superb cartography skills and knowledge



ON THE MAP

Cook's early career

James Cook didn't join the Royal Navy until the remarkably late age of 26. Born into a farming family in Marton, Yorkshire, in 1728, he briefly worked as a grocer's boy until scoring an apprenticeship with the merchant navy, where he literally learned the ropes while hauling coal around the Baltic and North Seas. He saw action in the Americas during the Seven Years' War, quickly earning promotion to ship's master, before smashing right through the class ceiling to gain control of his own vessel, an elevation that owed much to his skill as a cartographer. Cook's maps of the St Lawrence River were credited as a major contributing factor in a successful British attack on French forces in Quebec. This caught the eye of the Admiralty. It placed Cook at the helm of this Pacific expedition, setting the new captain on a trajectory that would see him become arguably Britain's greatest explorer.

The *Endeavour* is careened so the damage inflicted by the Great Barrier Reef – an "insane labyrinth", bemoaned Cook – can be inspected

of astronomy, not to mention his experience in handling craft exactly like the *Endeavour* – all of which combined to uniquely qualify him for an expedition that had two distinct objectives, one open and one secret.

His first task was to travel to Tahiti, via Cape Horn, to observe the 1769 transit of Venus, an astronomical event in which the planet can be seen passing in front of the Sun's disc. It really was a once in a lifetime chance – there wouldn't be another Venusian transit for 105 years. The sealed second set of instructions, however, were a mystery. Cook had no idea of their contents until he opened them in Tahiti. It was there he learned that the *Endeavour* should sail onwards into the immense South Pacific to search for Terra Australis Incognita, the 'unknown southern land' that geographers insisted must exist.

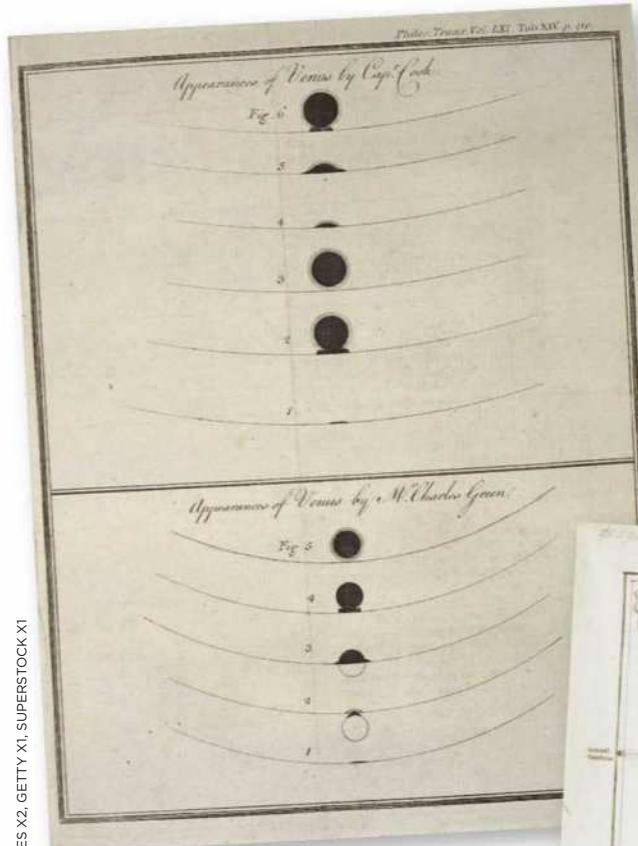
The leading proponent of the existence of a missing continent was Alexander Dalrymple. The Royal Society had intended that he should lead the expedition, but the Admiralty insisted that it had to be under the command of a Royal Navy captain. Previous experience had shown sailors were unwilling to take orders from a civilian; Edmond Halley, of comet fame, had proved this on an expedition fraught with problems in 1698. A mature character with excellent experience, an interest

in science and superb map-drawing skills, Cook was the perfect candidate. He was made a lieutenant and given captaincy of the newly refitted and renamed *Endeavour*.

SECRET MISSION

The *Endeavour* left England in August 1768 with a crew of nearly 100 men, including 73 sailors, 12 Royal Marines, several civilian scientists and their servants. The expedition rounded Cape Horn in January 1769 and reached Tahiti in April, weighing anchor in Matavai Bay and establishing a base on land, which they called Fort Venus.

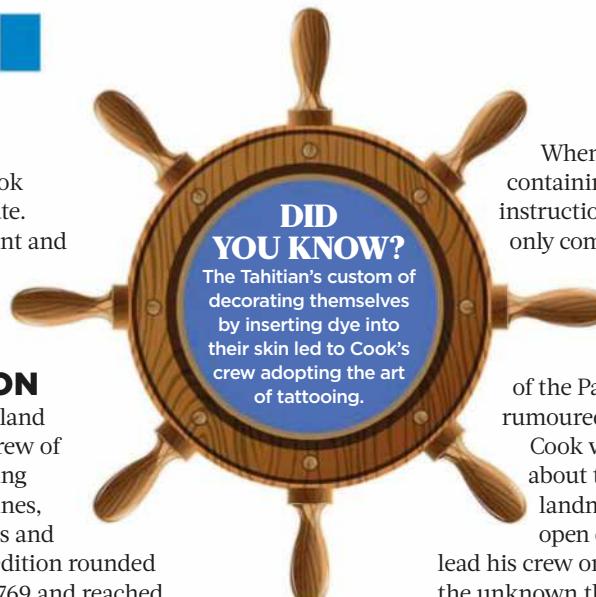
Cook and two scientists – Swedish naturalist Daniel Solander and English astronomer Charles Green – recorded the transit of Venus on 3 June. The results proved disappointing, with the data collected by the Tahiti observers showing more variance than expected. But, unbeknownst to everyone, the more meaningful part of their adventure was yet to come.



ABOVE: Cook and Green's transit observations didn't match, earning a sharp rebuke from the Royal Society in London

RIGHT: Tahitian priest Tupaia's map of the Polynesian islands; his skills as a navigator were second only to those as a translator

FAR RIGHT: Māori wood carving of Cook



When Cook opened the letter containing his second set of instructions, he discovered he'd only completed half of his mission

– the easy bit. Now his orders were to turn the *Endeavour* south and scour the enormity of the Pacific in search of the rumoured Southern Continent.

Cook was personally sceptical about the existence of this landmass, and his orders were open ended, meaning he had to lead his crew on a dangerous quest into the unknown that would keep them far from family and friends, in cramped and squalid conditions, for an unforeseeable period of time. Years, potentially.

Unsurprisingly, two of the marines attempted to desert, having formed relationships with local women, but they were quickly rounded up and, on 13 July, the *Endeavour* sailed away from Tahiti into the big blue yonder.

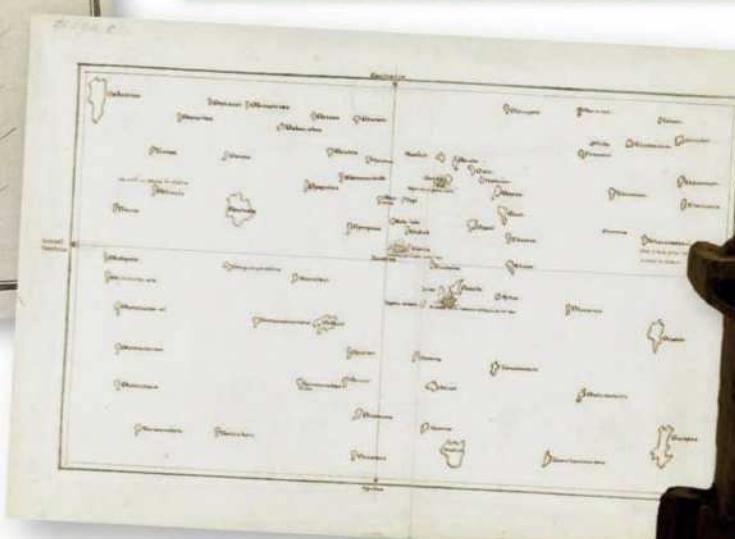
Cook stopped at several other islands close to Tahiti, including Huahine, and Ra'iatea, and on the latter, Banks convinced him to let a Tahitian priest called Tupaia embark. A gifted artist

with good knowledge of the stars, Tupaia was able to draw a map showing 130 islands within a 2,000-mile radius of their location, and he proved invaluable as a navigator and translator.

Tupaia was even able to converse with the Maori when the expedition made landfall in New Zealand, although that didn't prevent a series of incidents in which several tribesmen were killed by musket fire. Cook had found his way to the North Island – which hadn't been visited by Europeans since the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman stumbled upon it in 1642 – by travelling to the 40th parallel south, and then following that line of latitude west.

Tasman, who had approached from the east – having just left his other major discovery, Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) – also encountered a hostile reception from the Maori, and didn't linger long enough to establish whether New Zealand was connected to any other landmass. Perhaps it formed part of Terra Australis Incognita? Cook put that theory to bed by circumnavigating and mapping the entire coastline, revealing that it comprised two main islands. On 15 November 1769, he claimed both for

“His task was to lead his crew on a dangerous quest into the unknown”





Cook claimed the Australian coast on the basis of it being terra nullius (nobody's land); bad news for the indigenous Aborigines he met soon after (inset)

King George III by hoisting the British flag at Mercury Bay.

Having spent over six months sailing around New Zealand, Cook called his officers to a meeting on 31 March to decide – in the absence of any detail or definite direction in his orders – what course to plot next. The captain's preferred option was to head home via Cape Horn, but the *Endeavour* was in too poor a state to attempt that route, so the consensus was to point her west instead, returning via the Dutch East Indies, where repairs could be made.

MEN DOWN UNDER

The expedition traversed the Tasman Sea and, on 20 April 1770, they sighted the east coast of mainland Australia. Nine days later, having traced and charted the shoreline north, they made landfall at a place Cook initially named Stingrays Harbour, but later revised to Botany Bay, in honour of Banks and his haul of scientific discoveries.

Tasman had explored the harsh and inhospitable northern shore of Australia during his second expedition in 1644, and others had accidentally washed up on the continent's vast and empty west coast in the intervening years, but Cook and his crew were the first Europeans to land and chart the more fertile eastern seaboard. Whereas the Dutch had dismissed the country as largely devoid of meaningful commercial interest and effectively denigrated Tasman's discoveries, Cook and Banks

immediately earmarked Botany Bay as a potential spot for a colony.

Contact was made with the local Aborigine people, during which gifts were offered but refused, and a musket was fired over the head of two local men, injuring one of them and resulting in spears being thrown. The skirmish fizzled out, but for the indigenous people of Australia, this moment marked the beginning of the end of a way of life they had enjoyed for millennia. The aliens had landed, and eight years later they would be back, in greater numbers, with plans to stay.

For now, though, Cook contented himself with cruising along the coast, heading steadily north past now-famous locales including Port Stephens, Byron Bay, Moreton Island, Fraser Island, Hervey Bay, Palm Island and Mission Bay. And then, just past Cape Tribulation, disaster struck as the *Endeavour* collided with the Great Barrier Reef.

UP AND AWAY

As the water level rose with the tide on the evening of 12 June 1770, the *Endeavour* was noisily pushed free from the teeth of the reef, and by 10.20pm she was afloat. Now all efforts had to go into operating the three pumps, with Cook and Banks taking their turns.

They were lucky. The fang of coral that pierced the hull had broken off as the ship escaped the reef, and it was plugging the hole it had created. This, along with the ingenuity of midshipman Jonathan Monkhouse, who set about 'fothering' the *Endeavour* (sewing bits of wool into a sail, covering it in sheep dung and then sending this around the outside of the hull like an enormous bandage) saved the ship from sinking.

MARVELLOUS MISCELLANY

At sea with Cook

39

James Cook's age at the outset of his first voyage of discovery. He was killed on the third, aged 50.



Cook wasn't the first European to set foot on the soil of Botany Bay; it was his wife's cousin, Isaac Smith.



Provisions taken on the *Endeavour* included 250 barrels of beer, 44 barrels of brandy and 17 barrels of rum.

30,300

The number of plant specimens brought back to England, representing 3,607 species. Around 1,400 were new to science.



Cook's clerk, Richard Orton, had his clothes and part of his ears cut off while he lay in a drunken stupor off the coast of Australia by midshipman John Magra.



Benjamin Franklin respected Cook so much that, during the American War of Independence, he wrote to the captains of colonial warships instructing them to leave Cook unmolested if they should encounter him at sea.



The voyage saw Banks' goat complete its second circumnavigation of the globe; it made the first aboard the HMS *Dolphin* in 1766-68. Cook subsequently bestowed on her an engraved silver collar.



Continues on p36



CAPTAIN COOK'S FIRST VOYAGE

Almost three years at sea would see Cook's crew find new lands, meet new peoples, discover new species, survive violence and escape from peril – but not find the fabled lost continent

- 1** 25 AUGUST 1768
Plymouth, Devon
HMS Endeavour leaves England with a crew of 94 men and supplies for 18 months at sea.

- 2** 12 SEPTEMBER 1768
Madeira
As the Endeavour comes ashore at Funchal, Alexander Weir, the master's mate, is dragged overboard by a rope and drowns.

- 3** NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 1768
Rio de Janeiro
The Endeavour reaches Rio de Janeiro on 13 November, where Cook meets the viceroy. A second crewmember drowns in the harbour in December.

Janeiro on 13 November, where Cook meets the viceroy. A second crewmember drowns in the harbour in December.

- 4** JANUARY 1769
Tierra del Fuego
Leaving Rio on 5 December, the Endeavour sails down the east coast of South America, sighting the archipelago of Tierra del Fuego on 11 January. Anchoring in the Bay of Good Success, Cook takes a party ashore to collect botanical specimens. Two servants, Thomas Richmond and George Dorlton, die of exposure.



5 JANUARY 1769 Cape Horn

Cook sights Cape Horn on 25 January and five days later reaches the 60th parallel south, the most southerly point of the expedition.

6 APRIL-JULY 1769 Tahiti

On 13 April, the Endeavour anchors in Matavai Bay, and the crew establishes a fortified base. Cook, Daniel Solander and Charles Green observe the transit of Venus on 3 June. Cook opens his second set of (secret) instructions and, on 13 July, departs to search the South Pacific for the Southern Continent.

7 JULY 1769 Society Islands

During a stop at Ra'iatea, Cook takes on board the Tahitian priest Tupaia. The able navigator aids the expedition as it progresses through the islands of Polynesia and New Zealand, where he is able to act as translator.

8 AUGUST-OCTOBER 1769 New Zealand

After sailing around the Pacific for two months, searching in vain for the Southern Continent, Cook heads west along the 40th parallel south, reaching New Zealand in early October.

9 OCTOBER 1769-MARCH 1770 New Zealand

Cook has a violent encounter with the Māori at Poverty Bay in New Zealand on 9 October. He proceeds to chart New Zealand's entire coastline, revealing that it comprises two main islands and dispelling the idea that it's part of the larger Southern Continent.

10 APRIL-AUGUST 1770 New Holland (Australia)

Sailing west across the Tasman Sea, Cook sights land (Australia) on 20 April and begins tracing the coast. On 29 April, the expedition lands at Stingrays Harbour, which the captain later changes to Botany Bay in honour

of his scientists. The ship strikes the Great Barrier Reef on 11 June.

11 22 AUGUST 1770 Possession Island

Patched up, the Endeavour sets sail again on 4 August, continuing north through the reef to reach Possession Island. Here, Cook claims the eastern coast of Australia for George III, and names it New South Wales.

12 OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1770 Batavia, Java (Jakarta, Indonesia)

Cook stops for repairs at the capital of the Dutch East Indies, where his crew (who had largely avoided illness,

including scurvy) is ravaged by dysentery and typhoid.

13 MARCH-APRIL 1771 Cape Town, South Africa

Sailing from Batavia on 26 November, Cook reaches Cape Town on 16 March. The ship is overhauled and sails again on 15 April, crossing the Greenwich Meridian on 29 April, completing a westward circumnavigation of Earth.

14 JULY 1771 Kent, England

Travelling via St Helena, the Endeavour passes Land's End on 10 July. Cook drops anchor off Kent three days later, after almost three years at sea.

Cook's lasting legacy



SCURVY'S SCOURGE

◀ Cook didn't lose a single man to scurvy during his second voyage (1772–75), which was extremely unusual in this era. He pioneered fresh food as the best way to avoid the scourge of the seas, for which he was awarded the Copley Medal by the Royal Society.

A NEW PRISON

► During and after the American War of Independence, British authorities needed a new place to dispatch the thousands of convicts they transported each year. Based on Cook and Banks' accounts, that place was Botany Bay.



NEW TRADE ROUTES

◀ Much more so than the Atlantic or Indian Oceans, the Pacific was an enormous enigma to Europeans in the 18th century. During his three voyages, Cook coloured in the primary features of this immense ocean, and soon it was being crossed by merchants and whalers.



CHAMPION CARTOGRAPHY

► The quality of Cook's cartography is legendary, and his charts of New Zealand and Australia's coastlines were used for decades, even centuries, after he mapped them.



THE NEXT GENERATION

◀ Cook trained a generation of adventurers, navigators and cartographers, including George Vancouver, who explored North America's northwestern Pacific coast and Australia's southwest coast, and William Bligh, who performed a legendary feat of navigation after being cast adrift during the mutiny on the *Bounty*.



SUPERLATIVE SCIENCE

◀ On Cook's first voyage, the standard of scientific work performed by the botanists aboard – Banks and Solander – as well as the illustrations completed by artist Sydney Parkinson, set the bar for future travelling naturalists, including Charles Darwin.

◀ Immediate catastrophe averted, the *Endeavour* cautiously limped along the side of the Great Barrier Reef throughout the following day, until Cook spied the mouth of a river he would name after his ship. The outflow had eroded a gap in the reef, but bad weather prevented the distressed vessel from making an attempt to land. Eventually, on 17 June, during a break in the conditions, they tiptoed through the opening, only to become beached on a sandbank.

This time she was refloated within an hour, and the relieved crew made landfall where Cooktown now sits. This time the *Endeavour* had been deliberately run aground for more extensive repairs.

During the forced stop, the crew made contact with the Guugu Yimithirr people, from whom they learned snippets of the local language, including gangurru (kangaroo). Within two and a half weeks, the ship was seaworthy once more and the expedition began travelling north again, sailing through the Coral Sea, navigating a nervous route amid a murderous maze of reefs and rocky islands.

Despite another close encounter with the reef, the *Endeavour* made it to the top of Cape York in one piece. Cook celebrated by stopping at Possession Island, where on 22 August he claimed the entirety of the east coast of Australia for England – the first step in Britain's colonisation of the continent.

Cook then conclusively proved that Australia was unconnected to New Guinea by sailing through the Torres Strait to Batavia in the Dutch East Indies, and then completed a circumnavigation of the planet by returning home via the Cape of Good Hope.

UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE ERA

"The discoveries made in this voyage are not great..." Cook lamented in a letter he wrote to the Admiralty from Batavia. Most historians disagree.

In a single small ship, less than 100ft long, Cook had added several Polynesian islands and over 5,000 miles of erstwhile unknown coastline to the world map, and had charted the islands of New Zealand





Cook spent seven weeks repairing the ship on Endeavour River, giving Banks ample chance to study the flora and fauna

LEFT: The voyage gave the English their first glimpse of a marsupial – the kangaroo



“His voyage populated the Pacific with detail, where before there had only been myth and speculation”

and the East coast of Australia. His voyage populated the Pacific Ocean with detail, where before there had only been myth, speculation and guesswork geography. He proved once and for all that New Zealand and Australia were separate and distinct landmasses, and added the most promising parts of them to the

British Empire. His name and legacy were writ large on features right across the southern hemisphere, and the destinies of millions of people were altered by his journey.

His expedition does remain controversial. It was particularly

disastrous for the Aboriginal people of Australia, whose numbers would be depleted by the introduction of new diseases and substances, and whose 40,000-year-old culture would be obliterated by the arrival and actions of waves of rapacious Europeans over the next two centuries.

This wasn't Cook's intention, of course. The Aborigines' homeland would inevitably have been discovered by another European at some point, but his name will forever be pinned to the fate of Australia, for better or for worse. ☀

GET HOOKED

EXHIBITION

See original maps, scientific sketches and handwritten journals at the James Cook: The Voyages exhibition at the British Library in London. It runs until 28 August.

ALAMY XS, BRIDGEMAN IMAGES XL, BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD XI, GETTY X4

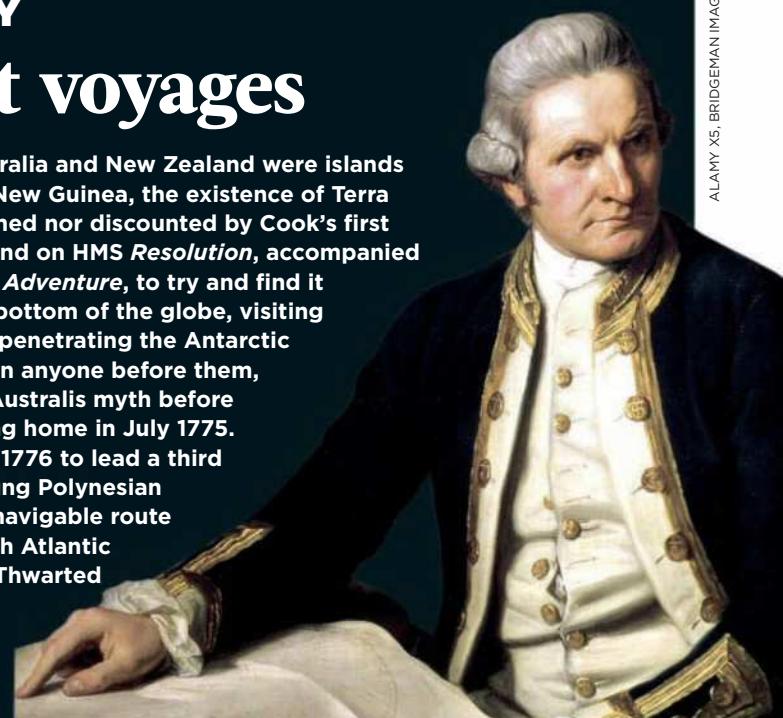
The *Endeavour* passes through Dover Strait, but without Tupaia or Green on board – both perished on the return leg

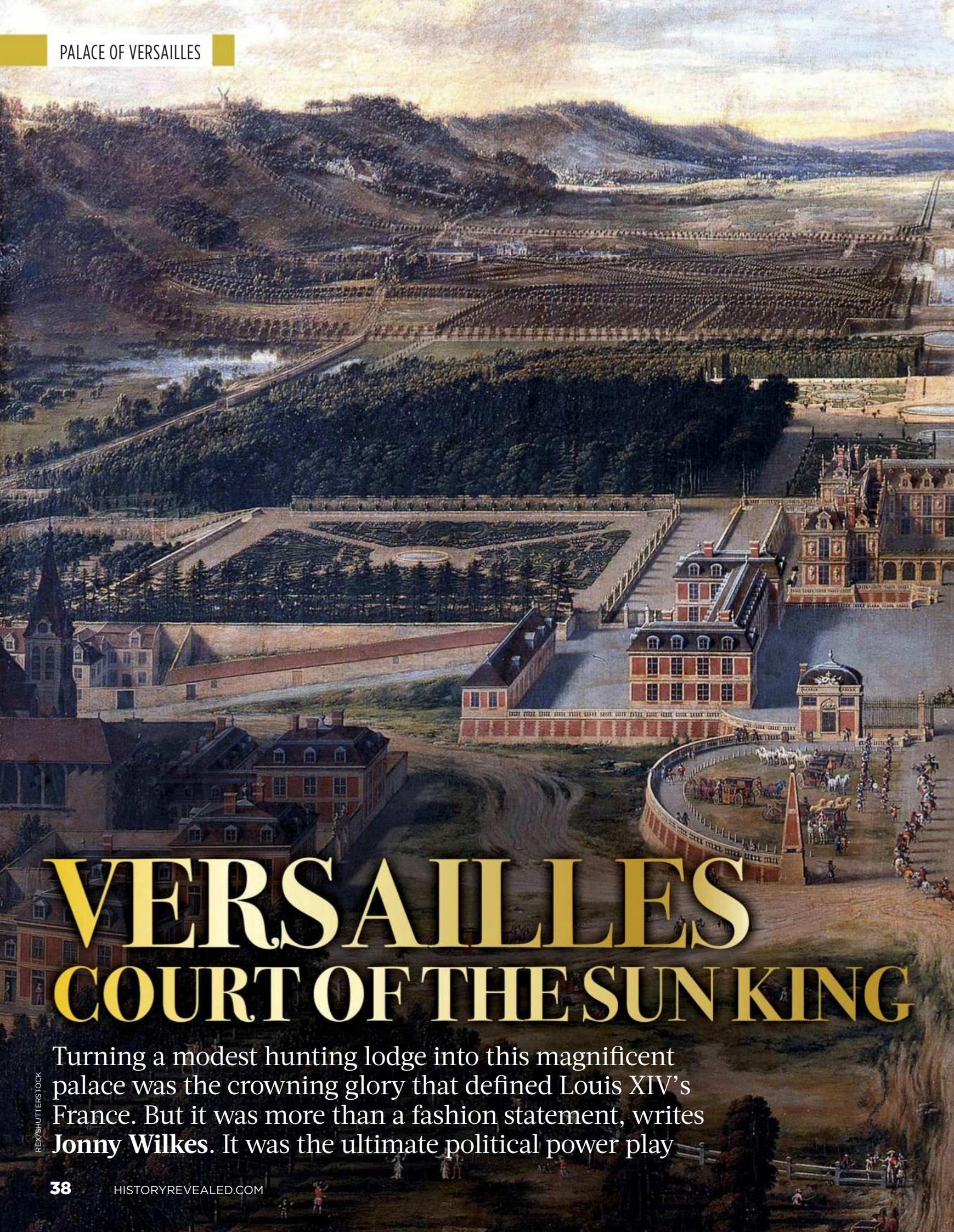
THIRD TIME UNLUCKY

Subsequent voyages

Despite providing proof that Australia and New Zealand were islands independent of one another and New Guinea, the existence of Terra Australis had neither been confirmed nor discounted by Cook's first voyage. In July 1772, he left England on HMS *Resolution*, accompanied by Captain Furneaux aboard HMS *Adventure*, to try and find it again. They circumnavigated the bottom of the globe, visiting and naming many Pacific islands, penetrating the Antarctic Circle and going farther south than anyone before them, ultimately discrediting the Terra Australis myth before being repelled by ice and returning home in July 1775.

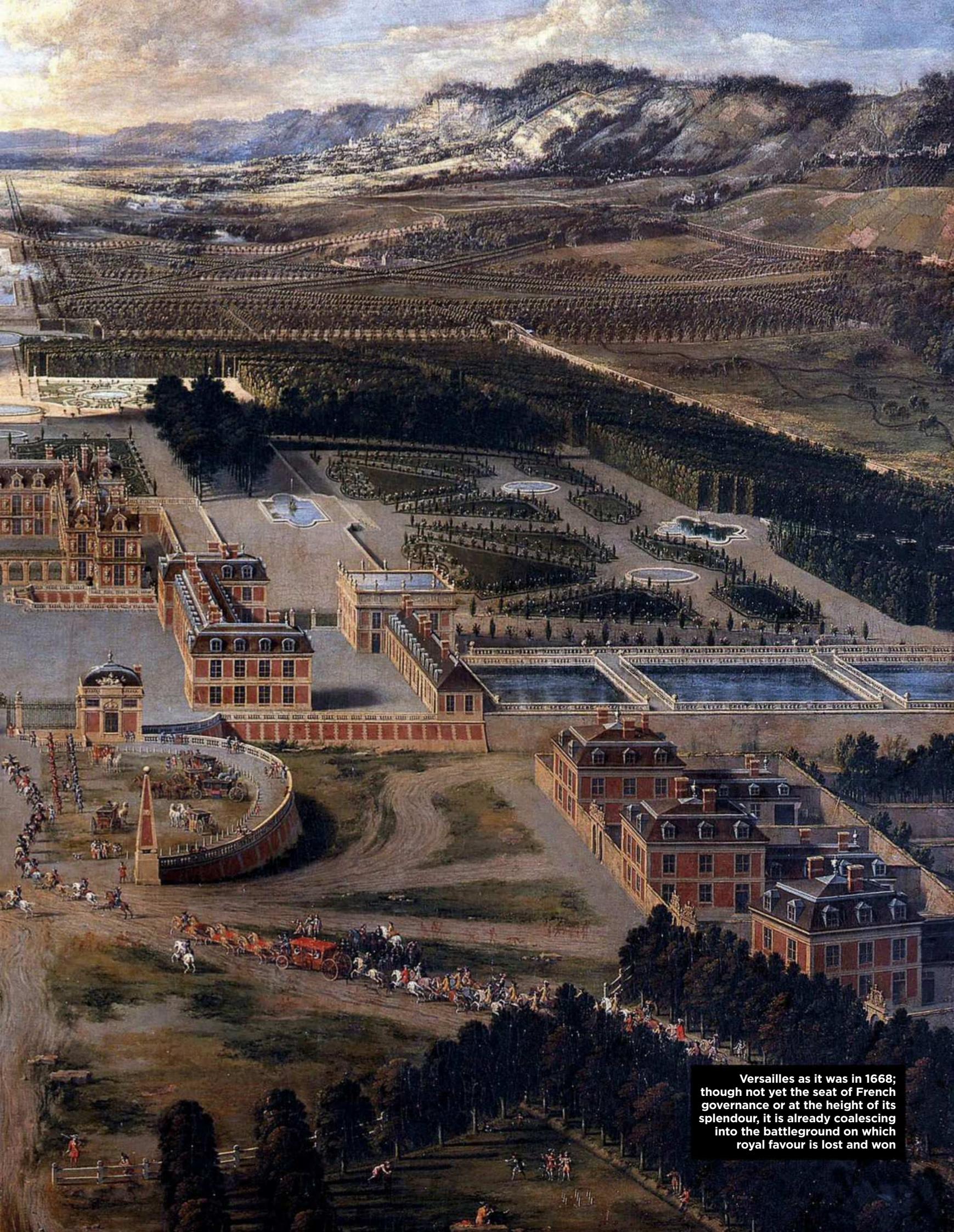
Cook came out of retirement in 1776 to lead a third voyage, ostensibly to return a young Polynesian man home, but secretly to find a navigable route from the North Pacific to the North Atlantic – the elusive Northwest Passage. Thwarted by ice on his first attempt, Cook overwintered in Hawaii, where he was killed in a dispute with locals on 14 February 1779.





VERSAILLES COURT OF THE SUN KING

Turning a modest hunting lodge into this magnificent palace was the crowning glory that defined Louis XIV's France. But it was more than a fashion statement, writes **Jonny Wilkes**. It was the ultimate political power play



Versailles as it was in 1668; though not yet the seat of French governance or at the height of its splendour, it is already coalescing into the battleground on which royal favour is lost and won

Louis XIV looked out at his father's old hunting lodge and envisioned a stronger, more unified and more magnificent France than the one he had inherited at the age of four. Now in his twenties and ruling on his own as an absolute monarch, he dreamed of building a palace of unparalleled opulence. This would be the spot on which he would do it. It would become, no matter how long it took or how much it cost, the centre not only of his country, but of society, culture, art and influence in all Europe.

Versailles was not an obvious location for a grand palace; it was a hamlet surrounded by forests and marshland, with a single track connecting to Paris, a little over ten miles away, along which cattle were taken to market. Yet Louis enjoyed staying at the lodge as a boy, as it offered a retreat from a capital that he greatly disliked.

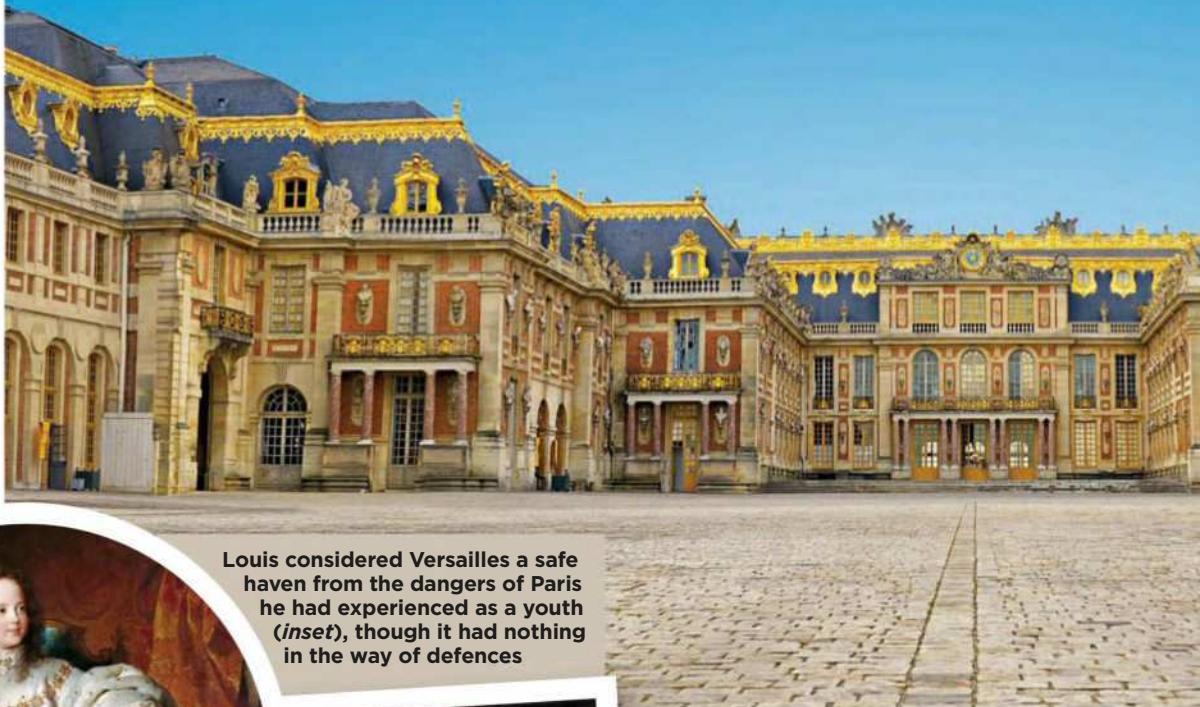
He had come to the throne in 1643. His mother, Anne of Austria, ruled as regent with the help of chief minister Cardinal Mazarin, but these years were defined by a period of civil unrest known as the Fronde. On one occasion, rioters broke into Louis' bedroom, leaving him traumatised and with a deep distrust of Paris. Versailles gave Louis a clean slate to create and exert his own royal authority.

GLORY TO ME

Following Mazarin's death in 1661, Louis caused a shock by announcing he would rule without a chief minister, taking absolute control of government. He was of the belief that the divine right of kings made him answerable only to God.

He instigated a series of administrative and military reforms, as well as the construction work at Versailles. The latter began under the supervision of architect Louis Le Vau, with painter Charles Le Brun overseeing interior design and landscape architect André Le Nôtre in charge of the gardens. All three were the greatest in their fields.

Everything inside the palace was to glorify Louis, and everything outside was to show that even nature fell under the King's will. Mountains of earth had to be moved to level the ground,



Louis considered Versailles a safe haven from the dangers of Paris he had experienced as a youth (inset), though it had nothing in the way of defences



Cardinal Mazarin (left) and Anne of Austria presided over Louis' regency. The King came of age in 1651, but didn't assume absolute power until Mazarin's death ten years later

rivers diverted, swamps drained and thousands of trees transported from across France. Over the years, Le Nôtre created a panorama of manicured lawns, parterres and flowerbeds, statue-filled groves, walkways, towering hedgerows and dozens of the most extravagant fountains. Supplying the vast streams of water required by the fountains constituted a devilishly difficult challenge that pumping stations failed to alleviate. In the end, Louis' gardeners switched off the jets at every opportunity.

As with his government, Louis had his say in all aspects of the decision making. No detail was too small – he once declared that even passports

could not be signed without his command – and he worked long hours to prove himself a committed administrator. Le Vau had to alter his original design for the palace to satisfy Louis' demand that the hunting lodge be preserved. The resulting 'envelope' therefore saw the three new wings enveloping the lodge, now at the centre of the complex.

THE PARTY PALACE

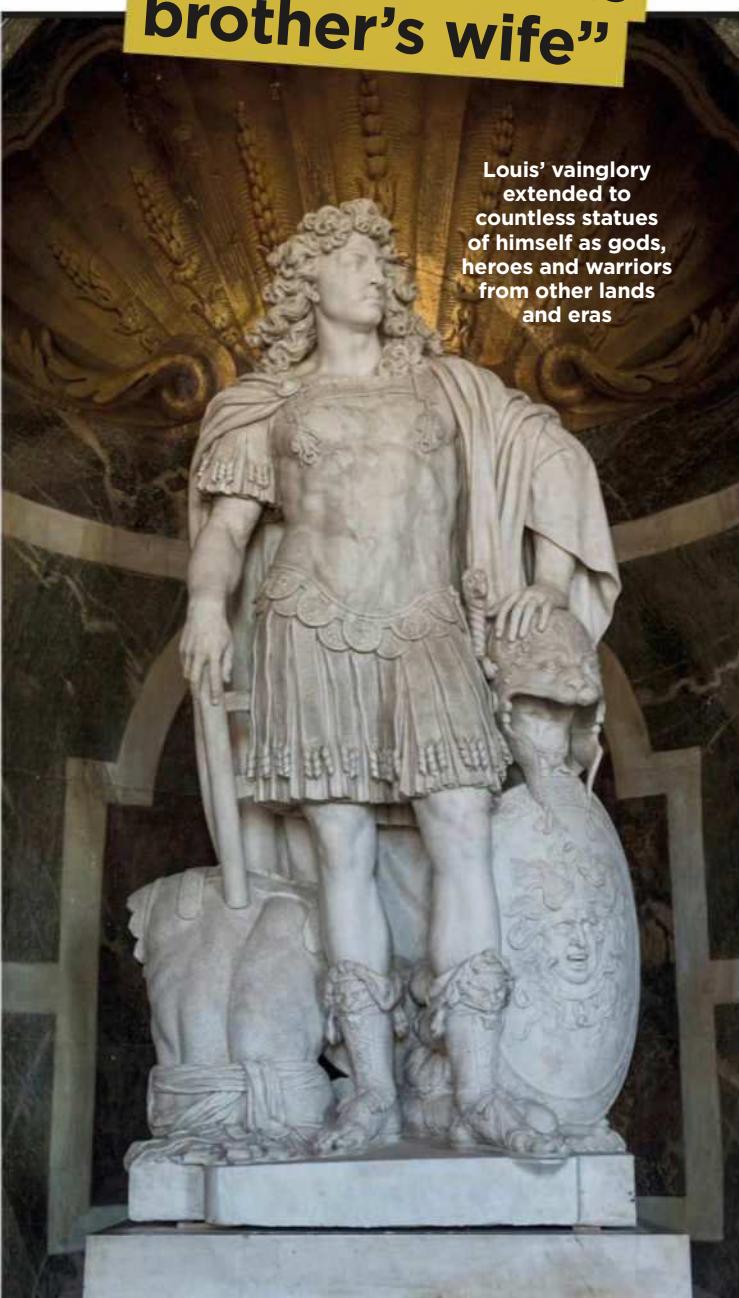
Enough progress had been made for Louis to hold his first lavish get-together at Versailles in May 1664. He started as he meant to go on: 'The Pleasures of the Enchanted Island' lasted for six days and six nights. There were horse parades, firework displays and theatrical performances, even the premiere of a ballet. Though it was officially all in honour of his mother and his wife, Louis used the week of banquets to introduce the world to his palace (he sent out engravings of the events to European courts) and celebrate his mistress, Louise de la Vallière.

Despite his dedication to his position, Louis knew how to enjoy the pleasures of life. He had several mistresses, among them his brother's wife, Henrietta of England, and the witty and beautiful Madame de Montespan, who replaced Vallière. Reportedly, his desires could not be contained by them; it's said that one day he grew so impatient waiting for a lover to undress that he turned his attention to one of the maids.

He was a great patron of writers, artists and musicians too. At Versailles, this meant countless commemorations of himself. Master playwright Molière wrote hagiographies, court composer Jean-Baptiste Lully produced hundreds



“Louis XIV had several mistresses, among them his brother’s wife”



Louis' vainglory extended to countless statues of himself as gods, heroes and warriors from other lands and eras

THE AFFAIR OF THE POISONS

With such labyrinthine rules, was it possible to rig the game at Versailles? Those at court certainly tried...

As Louis XIV prepared to move his government to Versailles in the late 1670s, a scandal erupted that appalled and intrigued in equal measure – it featured murder, black magic and the King's own court.

Before her execution for poisoning her father and two brothers, Madame de Brinvilliers cried out that she was far from the only one guilty of dabbling in poisons. A three-year investigation headed by Paris police chief Gabriel Nicolas de la Reynie looked into the matter and uncovered a booming magical underworld, where rebel priests performed black masses and sorceresses sold concoctions ranging from love spells to ‘inheritance powders’ made of arsenic. One of the most popular potion-peddlers was La Voisin, who named among her clients those looking for advantage at Versailles. The Duc de Luxembourg bought charms to keep him safe from swords, while a number of women looked for any additive to seduce the King.

With De la Reynie convinced of an epidemic, Louis appointed a special tribunal in April 1679. Its sessions took place in a hall lit only by flaming torches, the chambre ardente (burning chamber). More than 400 people were accused, dozens exiled and 36 put to death, including La Voisin.

Fear spread among a court already riddled with suspicion and the deaths continued, but Louis put an end to things after he heard a name of someone implicated that alarmed him: the Madame de Montespan, his mistress. Fearing the King may tire of her, she is said to have sprinkled love potions into his food; potions made from Spanish fly, iron filings, sperm and menstrual blood. It was even claimed she had a priest perform a sacrilegious mass over her naked body, which involved the sacrifice of an infant. Montespan was never tried, but the affair revealed something dark and rotting at the heart of Louis' Versailles utopia.



Madame de Brinvilliers' confession was extracted by 'water cure'; that is, being forced to drink several litres of it

of baroque pieces to give the palace its own soundtrack, and every wall and space seemed to be filled with paintings and sculptures of Louis. He appeared as historical and mythological figures, from Alexander the Great to the gods Zeus and Apollo, or as his emblem, the Sun, which he chose shortly after assuming absolute power.

Of course, the other way the Sun King could seek glory was on the battlefield. The French invaded the Spanish Netherlands in 1667, which Louis claimed on behalf of his Spanish wife, Marie-Thérèse. When that endeavour ended unsatisfactorily, he allied with England and attacked the Dutch Republic. That war concluded with the 1678 Treaty of Nijmegen and left France with extended frontiers in the north and

east. Louis, approaching 40, now stood tall as the dominant force in Europe.

Peacetime never lasted long during Louis' reign – and he spent most of it planning his next military move. Yet his victories in the Franco-Dutch War allowed him to focus on domestic goals, most notably centralisation. Louis intended the palace to become the official royal residence and seat of government, so construction at Versailles intensified.

Between 1678 and the declaration of Versailles as the centre of government on 6 May 1682, Le Vau's replacement, Jules Hardouin-Mansart, built more than had been constructed in the previous 20 years. As well as two massive wings for the nobility and princes of the blood, he added the architecturally splendid Great

VERSAILLES IN NUMBERS

357

Mirrors line
the 17 arches
of the Hall of
Mirrors

99

Jets on the Neptune Fountain



700

Rooms in the palace, although
there are more than
1,200 fireplaces

3

Hospitals built to care
for those injured while
working at Versailles



8 days

The period on time that Louis
XIV was displayed in the Mercury
Room following his death



The cost of building
Versailles is estimated
to be in the range of
\$2 billion and
\$300 billion in
today's money

11 years

Time taken to construct the Grand
Canal, from 1668-79. At parties, its
1,670-metre length would be lined
with candles or torches



50

Heads of hair needed to
make a royal wig



and Small Stables (capable of housing 700 horses), the artificial Lake of the Swiss Guards (replacing a marshland known as the stinking pond) and completed the 1,670-metre Grand Canal after more than a decade of digging. Boats would regularly be seen on the water, among them gondolas presented to Louis by the Republic of Venice.

Building went on from dawn to dusk, with up to 36,000 people working in the gardens in dire and dangerous conditions. Injuries became a daily occurrence, and so many died that bodies would be quietly removed at night in bulk. The workers went on strike, but Louis saw Versailles as a symbol of his prestige – and, therefore, France's prestige. It was worth any price. When half a dozen men were crushed in an accident, one grieving mother approached Louis to request her son's body. He had her imprisoned.

It was not only the human cost that mounted. Taxation, and more efficient tax collection, had helped with the astronomical cost of Versailles, but minister of finances Jean-Baptiste Colbert went further by turning the palace into a showcase of French manufacturing. This suited Louis, so Colbert nationalised the tapestry industry and persuaded Venetian mirror makers, considered the world's best, to come and work at a French company.

Their skills were vital for Mansart's pièce de résistance: the Hall of Mirrors. A spectacular gallery with wide windows on one side, overlooking the gardens and a wall of mirrors on the other, Louis used it to host major events, including diplomatic meetings with the Doge of Genoa and

The Grand Canal was not just for travel; courtly amusements played out on the water, too

ambassadors of Siam and Persia. The hall was the shining gem in the Versailles crown.

The purpose of Versailles was not just to inspire awe, though, but also deference and servitude. By putting the court under his roof, Louis could control his nobility with a tight grip in a velvet glove. If you were to have any hope of advancement, you had to be at Versailles and abide by the King's rules. Contact with Louis became currency, and the worst thing for the King to say about a courtier was that he never saw them.

ORDER IN THE COURT

"Falseness, servility, admiring glances, combined with a dependent and cringing attitude, above all an appearance of being nothing without him, were the only means of pleasing him," wrote one of the courtiers who never pleased Louis, named Saint Simon.

Louis turned his life, movements and even ablutions into a daily performance, governed by a seemingly endless list of detailed rituals and strict rules of etiquette – all in order to keep the nobles busy. Being stuck at Versailles and playing strange social games based on Louis' whims meant they could not bolster their personal power in their own lands and rise up in rebellion.

All revolved around the Sun King, starting when he first awoke. A select group would be granted access to the King's bedchamber, although they were not to cross the railing to get near the bed during the ceremonial levée (rising), and only the most senior in the room had the honour of helping Louis

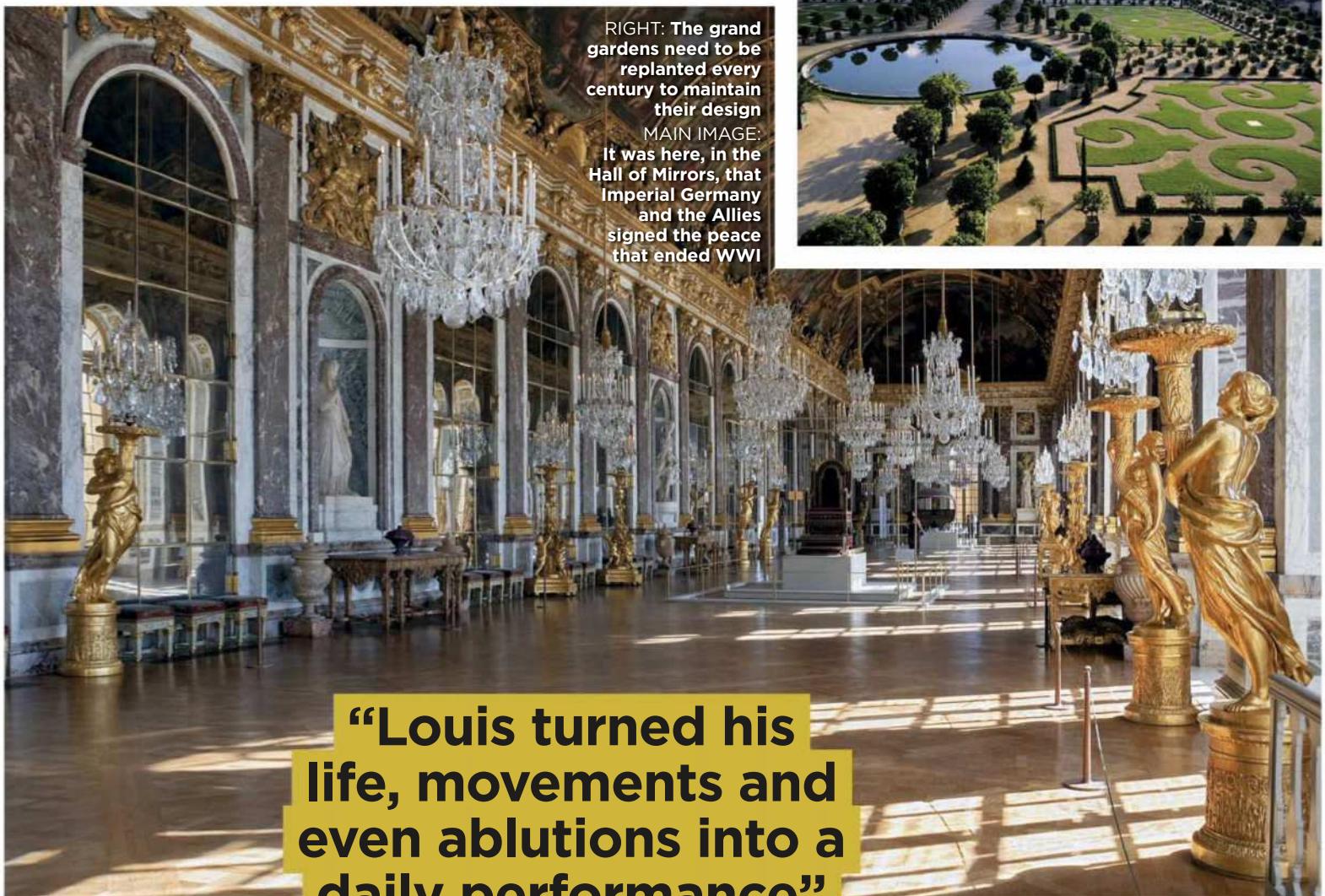




The Sun emblem was apt; Versailles was a microcosm in which everything revolved around Le Roi Soleil



RIGHT: The grand gardens need to be replanted every century to maintain their design
MAIN IMAGE: It was here, in the Hall of Mirrors, that Imperial Germany and the Allies signed the peace that ended WWI





Louis (played by George Blagden in the television series *Versailles*, inset) creates the first knights of the Order of St Louis in 1693

“Courtiers thought nothing of answering the call of nature in the corridors”

into his shirt. Meals were a spectator event, dances had to be joined in the correct order of rank and people had to know what type of chair they were permitted to sit in.

Living at Versailles was an expensive business. Courtiers had to be seen in the latest fashions, which cost so much that they could bankrupt the wearer – or they had to borrow from the crown, making them more dependent on Louis. Maintaining the proper degree of fashion was crucial, so after Louis began losing his hair and had a risky operation on his bottom, huge wigs and groin bandages became all the rage.

The first nobles to stay at Versailles had called it a “mistress without merit”. Life at court could be far from glamorous, not least as the building spent years at a time under scaffolding. Perhaps the greatest problem was the lack of toilet facilities – courtiers thought nothing of answering the call of nature in the corridors. Poor drainage and nearby marshes filled Versailles with bad odours.

When a noble first came to live at Versailles, they would be offered one of the 350 rooms Louis had built. Yet the quality of the apartments and how close they got the inhabitant to the King varied wildly, so days would be spent bartering and cajoling for the best ones. In such a sprawling space, with everyone gossiping and looking for any fault or weakness to exploit, Versailles could feel claustrophobic despite its size.

This was only worsened by the fact that Louis kept everyone under surveillance and intercepted their mail. Courtiers came up with codes to try to keep their messages secret, so the King employed cryptographers. Yet the only thing worse than being at Versailles was not being at Versailles. For a short while, at least.

DEATH OF A DREAMER

By the 1680s, the parties, feasting and debauchery that had come to be expected at Louis' palace had begun to wane, making the orchestrated daily schedule and etiquette unbearably tedious. Following the Queen's death in 1683, Louis married Madame de Maintenon, a woman much more subdued and pious than any of his mistresses.

The ailing King may have been more concerned with his spiritual wellbeing, but he still made enemies in Europe (notably with the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, which had protected Protestants in France) and courted war. Silver from Versailles had to be melted down to pay for his campaigns, with public opinion finally turning on him after the disastrous War of the Spanish Succession in the early 18th century.

When Louis died on 1 September 1715, after gangrene spread through his leg, he had spent more than 72 years on the throne and outlived many of his descendants, including his son. It would be his great-grandson who succeeded him. He supposedly said on his deathbed,

KING'S HOUSE, KING'S RULES

Life at Versailles was controlled by a series of bizarre decrees on etiquette and decorum. Forget them at your peril...

Knocking on the King's door was not permitted. Instead, courtiers had to scratch the woodwork with the little finger on their left hand and wait to be granted entrance.

Women could not hold hands or link arms with a man. They could place their hands on top of his bent arm or touch fingertips.

No one could sit on a chair with arms in the presence of the King or Queen. Chairs with backs were reserved for the highest-ranking nobles, like the dauphin, so most perched on stools.

When presented to the King for the first time, women had to curtsey three times while approaching and three times when retreating.

It was improper to ask to relieve yourself in front of the King, even during a coach ride that could last hours. Courtiers either did not drink beforehand or trusted in their bladder control.

Men had to have swords when attending the public meals, called the Grand Couvert. If they arrived unprepared, they had to rent one.

A courtier could not wipe their face or nose with a napkin.

If someone sneezed, it was impolite to say “God Bless You” out loud. Instead, courtiers said it silently while removing their hat.

“I have loved war too much”, but it was glory that he adored, whether it came from battle or from the pomp and majesty of his gargantuan palace.

He had fulfilled his dream of building a palace that would be the heart of France – and that may have contributed to the downfall of the monarchy. Versailles came to be seen as a symbol of waste and corruption that fuelled the fires of revolution. ☀

GET HOOKED

READ

Versailles: The Great and Hidden Splendours of the Sun King's Palace by Catherine Pégard and Christophe Fouin (July 2017) offers a photographic glimpse of Louis XIV's grand residence

VISIT

The Palace of Versailles is open to the public, as are its estates and grounds. Find out more at <http://en.chateaubernaires.fr>



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in happier times.
From left to right:
Olga, Maria, Tsar
Nicholas II, Tsarina
Alexandra, Anastasia,
Alexei and Tatiana



THE LAST MONTHS OF THE ROMANOVS

Spencer Day reveals how a holy man and a bitter radical sealed the fate of Tsar Nicholas II, bringing down a dynasty that had ruled Russia for more than three centuries



On 20 May 1887, in a medieval fortress just outside of the city of St Petersburg, five young revolutionaries were put to death for attempting to assassinate Tsar Alexander III. News of their executions would hardly have come as a surprise to the people of Russia. Acts of insurrection were spreading, and those behind them were being captured, tortured and killed with almost equal rapidity.

But there was something different about this particular incident, and that was the identity of one of the men dragged to the gallows. The name Aleksandr Ilyich Ulyanov will mean little to most people today. But the alias of his younger brother Vladimir – better known as Lenin – certainly will. And, little more than 30 years later, Lenin would exact his revenge on Alexander III's hapless successor in a brutal bout of bloodletting, sounding the death knell for one of the mightiest dynasties in world history.

Just a few years before Aleksandr Ulyanov met his end, the collapse of that dynasty, the Romanovs, would have been inconceivable. They had ruled Russia for 250 years – and there was no reason to think that they wouldn't continue to do so. Among their number were some of Europe's most celebrated leaders, including Peter the Great, the brilliant warlord, moderniser and empire-builder, and Alexander I, who stopped Napoleon's advancing army in its tracks at Moscow.

These weren't just rulers, they were almost divine beings, believed by many of their 100 million or so subjects to be beyond reproach. They presided over a polity that covered one-sixth of the Earth's surface. The power that they wielded was almost mindboggling.

But, by 1887, cracks were beginning to appear beneath the veneer of might and majesty. The Romanovs' fierce authoritarianism and reluctance to introduce democratic institutions – not to mention the crushing poverty of Russia's peasantry – had turned their nation into a seething mass of discontent.

When Alexander III died in 1894, succumbing not to an assassin's bullet, but to illness, Russia >

was a powder keg. What the country required more than ever was a sure-footed leader capable of navigating a nation through almost unimaginably choppy waters. Instead, it got Alexander's son, Nicholas II.

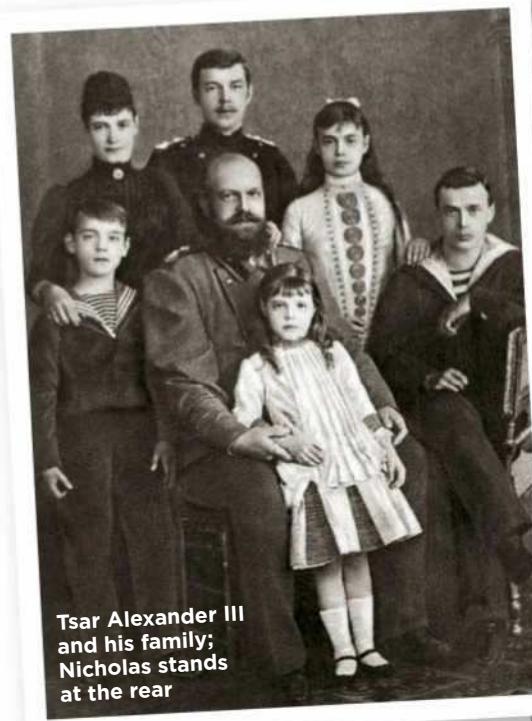
"I am not prepared to be a tsar," confided Nicholas to a close friend. "I never wanted to become one. I know nothing of the business of ruling." These were uncharacteristically prescient words.

BLINDED BY DIVINITY

Nicholas was simply not cut out to take on such a Herculean task as ruling Russia. He was stubborn, unwilling to take advice and lacked the intellect to grasp the febrile mood of the nation.

To watch the film of his coronation is to get a flickering, black-and-white snapshot of just how out of touch with most of Russia he and his wife, the German princess Alexandra, were. It shows a man dressed in a 17th-century costume participating in what was, essentially, a 17th-century ceremony. Meanwhile, a rapidly industrialising nation was rushing headlong towards the 20th century, and the millions of peasants swelling its cities' factories were hungry for change.

The people made their voices heard in 1905, when thousands of striking workers poured onto the streets of St Petersburg, demanding greater rights and democracy. Nicholas responded as the Romanovs so often did – with unyielding force. Around 100 workers were killed when his troops opened fire on the striking crowds. "The Tsar's



Tsar Alexander III and his family; Nicholas stands at the rear



prestige has been killed here," remarked the socialist writer Maxim Gorky. "That is the meaning of this day."

Nicholas wouldn't have agreed. He and Alexandra seemed to have remained utterly convinced of their divine right to rule. In fact, in 1913, after basking in admirers' acclaim in a stage-managed celebration to mark 300 years of Romanov rule, Alexandra is said to have exclaimed: "We need merely to show ourselves and at once their hearts are ours." She was wrong: Russia was about to be convulsed by revolution.

That revolution was largely triggered by two developments – one global, one deeply personal. In 1914, Nicholas took the fateful decision of leading Russia into World War I. The Tsar was the conflict's most high-profile cheerleader – he even had himself made head of the army. And so, when things started to go wrong, it was he who shouldered the blame. Some 1.5 million Russian soldiers were killed or wounded in the first year of the conflict, and the Tsar's armies were soon in retreat. To Nicholas's many opponents, he had blood on his hands.

The second factor concerned Nicholas's heir and only son, Alexei. Nicholas may have been an inept leader, but he was a loving husband and father who doted on his son and four daughters, Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia. You can imagine his horror when Alexei fell dangerously ill with haemophilia, a disorder that hampers the body's ability to form blood clots.

HOLY MAN OR CHARLATAN?

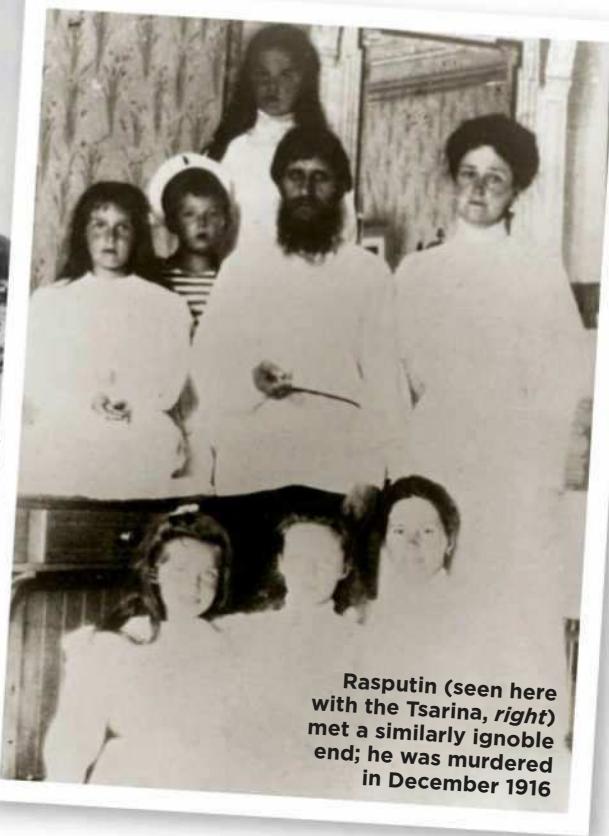
In their desperation to help their stricken son, Nicholas and Alexandra turned to a mystic called Grigori Rasputin. To their amazement, Alexei appeared to rally in Rasputin's presence. Such was the couple's gratitude to the mysterious holy man for 'curing' their son that they welcomed him into their inner circle – seeking his advice not only on Alexei's health, but also affairs of state.

But, as Rasputin's influence on the royal couple grew, so did his unpopularity among the wider public. Rumours spread that he was consorting with prostitutes, poisoning Alexandra's mind, even spying on behalf of Russia's wartime enemy, the Germans. To many Russians, his presence in the royal court was the final straw. By early 1917, they could contain their anger no longer and, in February, tens



Nicholas II's coronation was lavish, reverent and grossly out of touch with public feeling

Nicholas addresses troops bound for war with Japan in 1905, another botched conflict that bruised his authority



Rasputin (seen here with the Tsarina, right) met a similarly ignoble end; he was murdered in December 1916

“Those around Nicholas were struck by the calmness with which he signed away his throne”



of thousands of people thronged onto the streets of St Petersburg carrying with them banners that read “Stop the War!”, “Feed the Children!” and “End Autocracy”!

Alexandra sneered that this was “a hooligan movement in the street”, and Nicholas ordered troops to use all necessary force to quell the protest. But while in 1905, those troops had fired upon the protestors, now they joined them.

The mutiny delivered the final, fatal blow to Nicholas’s regime. On 15 March, the beleaguered Tsar agreed to abdicate. Those around him were struck by the calmness with which he signed away his throne. “He was such a fatalist,” wrote one of the generals. “He signed it just as simply as one hands a cavalry squadron to a new commander.” The Romanovs’ 304-year domination of Russia was finally at an end.

With the new Provisional Government taking the reins of power, Tsar Nicholas II, Emperor of All the Russias, now became Mr Nicholas Romanov. He was placed under house arrest in Alexander Palace near St Petersburg. It was the grandest of prisons but, as the Romanovs would soon discover, the age of deference to their divine majesty was over. Guards walked

in and out of their rooms unannounced, and there’s a story of a soldier thrusting a bayonet through the wheels of Nicholas’s bicycle as the former Tsar rode it, then laughing as he tumbled to the floor.

A GHOST RETURNS

But events were unfolding to the west that would make the Romanovs’ future far bleaker still – and it would arrive in the form of the long-dead Aleksandr Ulyanov’s brother, Lenin.

Since Aleksandr’s execution, Lenin had harboured a vehement hatred for the Romanovs. He had harnessed that enmity to become one of Russia’s most influential – and radical – revolutionaries. His leadership of the Bolshevik Party had forced him to flee Russia to live in exile in Western Europe, but on Nicholas’s abdication he found himself on a train home. “Give us an organisation of revolutionaries,” he said, “and we will overturn Russia!” And in October 1917 – in what was the second of that year’s two great revolutions – that’s exactly what he did. >

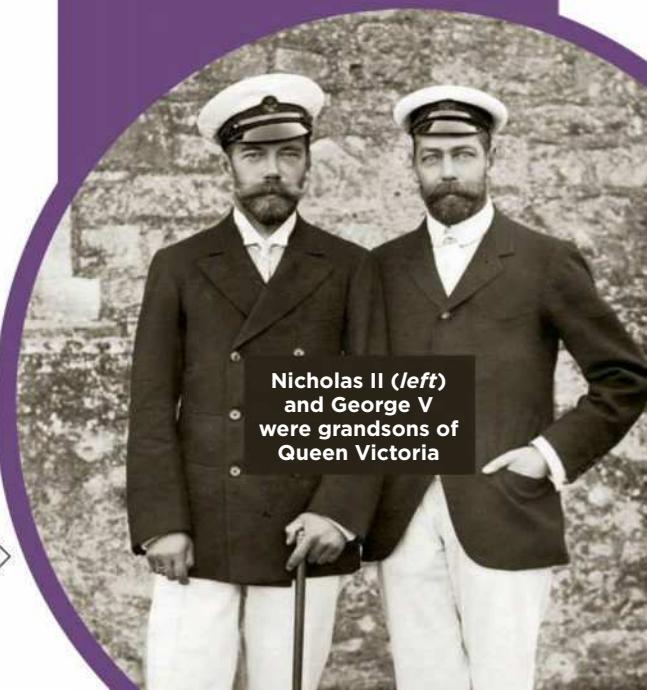
WHY DIDN’T GEORGE V HELP THEM?

It’s one of the big what-ifs of 20th-century history: could King George V have saved Tsar Nicholas II from execution at the hands of the Bolsheviks? The British King was certainly deeply concerned at his fellow royal’s predicament – after all, they were cousins and friends; in 1909, the Tsar had joined George, then Prince of Wales, for Regatta Week on the Isle of Wight.

It seems that the British did hatch a plan to rescue the Romanovs in the spring of 1917, not long after Nicholas had abdicated. A British ship would have picked up the family at the port of Murmansk, 800 miles north of St Petersburg, and brought them back to Britain and safety.

In the end, the plan was scuppered by the demands of World War I and rising anti-German sentiment among the British people. As the rescue plan took shape, diplomat Sir George Buchanan warned the King that left-wing extremists would use the former Tsar’s presence in Britain – and, more pertinently, that of his German wife – “as an excuse for rousing public opinion against us”.

This scenario seems to have given George, ever mindful of his own German ancestry, the jitters. He withdrew his invitation of refuge to his beleaguered cousin. In the battle between Nicholas’s safety and British public opinion, there was only going to be one winner – and it wasn’t the former Tsar.



Nicholas II (left) and George V were grandsons of Queen Victoria

unseating the Provisional Government, which had been fatally hamstrung by its insistence on keeping Russia in an unpopular war.

At the end of April 1918, Lenin ordered that Nicholas, his wife, five children and courtiers be escorted under heavy guard to a remote house in Ekaterinburg, near the Ural Mountains. It appears that the family was confined to four rooms on the first floor of their new residence, next to a room bristling with guards. And, just in case they harboured ambitions of breaking out, there were machine-gun nests dotted around the building.

July saw the arrival of their final jailer, a hardline Bolshevik commandant by the name of Yakov Yurovsky. Reports suggest that Yurovsky regularly engaged the captives in conversation – all the while knowing that he would soon oversee their executions. If other accounts are to be believed, he and his fellow guards treated their prisoners appallingly.

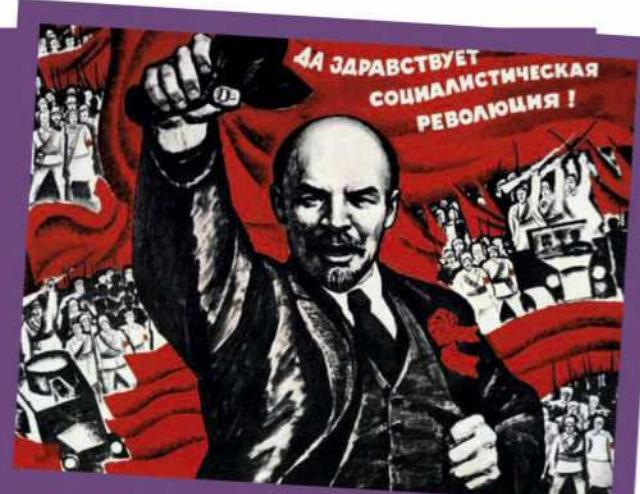
"I saw in the room ... horrible pictures of Rasputin and the empress, and inscriptions boasting of outrage, and the shrieks that were heard at night tend to confirm this," wrote Colonel Pavel Rodzianko, implying that the women were sexually abused. "Anything more horrible than the last week of the family cannot be imagined."



"No sooner had the Bolsheviks seized power than they found themselves fighting"

The decision to murder the Romanovs seems to have been borne from events on the battlefield. No sooner had the Bolsheviks seized power than they found themselves in a life-or-death struggle with the so-called White Army – consisting of counter-revolutionary Russians and a conglomeration

of international forces. By July 1918, a Czech contingent of the White Army was closing in on Ekaterinburg. So close were they that, holed up in their prison, the Romanovs could hear the sound of gunfire. The arrival of potential saviours – who would use the release of the Romanovs as a rallying point to the



BREAD AND THE BOLSHEVIKS

So hated was Tsar Nicholas II's regime that revolution was coming to Russia whether he liked it or not. But that revolution wasn't preordained to be world-changing. That it was is the result of Lenin's steely character.

Radicalised by the execution of his brother during the reign of Alexander III, Lenin formed the Bolsheviks, a revolutionary party committed to the ideas of Karl Marx. It advocated a socialist revolution based on the peasantry seizing control from the ruling classes.

To say that the odds were stacked against the Bolsheviks launching a hostile takeover of an empire of more than 100 million people is a huge understatement. Theirs was a tiny, marginal movement, and most of their leaders had been forced into exile. But that was nothing to Lenin.

As one opponent said of him: "There is no other man who is absorbed by the revolution 24 hours a day, who has no other thoughts but the thought of revolution, and who even when he sleeps, dreams of nothing but the revolution."

In October 1917, Lenin employed this maniacal commitment to engineer a remarkable coup, winning over the people with the promise of bread and peace. The Bolsheviks would go on to administer a regime every bit as tyrannical as its predecessors.

Propaganda was liberally used to extol the party line; this one reads "All hail the communist revolution"

After the abdication, the royal family were placed under house arrest; this is Alexei and Olga (seated) with their armed guards



The former Tsar was put to work during his captivity



The cellar the Romanovs and their servants met their end in, after the deed had been done

counter-revolutionary cause – appears to have sealed the family's fate.

HORROR IN THE BASEMENT

What happened next – on the morning of 17 July 1918 – isn't entirely clear. It's thought that, at around 2am, the guards informed the Romanovs that they were to be moved again, and that they were to congregate in the cellar. Yurovsky then ordered the family together for a group photograph – Alexandra and the four young daughters huddled together; Nicholas stood next to his son.

"It seemed as if all of them guessed their fate," remembered Pavel Medvedev, one of the soldiers guarding the Romanovs, "but not one of them made a single sound." Before the shooting began, Medvedev was ordered out

into the street to check that all was quiet. He returned to a grisly scene: "I saw that all the members of the Tsar's family were lying on the floor with many wounds on their bodies. The blood was running in streams. When I entered the room the heir was still alive and moaned a little. Yurovsky went up and fired two or three more times at him."

We can't be sure what had happened in the intervening minutes, but it seems that Nicholas was the first to die in the volley of gunfire unleashed on his family. He was the lucky one. The girls, thinking they were on the move again, had stored their jewels inside their dresses, effectively giving them some armoured plating. The result was that, among the screaming and the smoke, it took more than 100 bullets and perhaps multiple stabbings for them to die.

ANASTASIA'S IMPOSTERS

On 17 July 1918, the Romanov dynasty was wiped from the face of the Earth – or was it? For decades after the murders, rumours swirled that the youngest Romanov daughter, Anastasia, had survived the killings, feigning death before being spirited away by a sympathetic guard.

At least 10 women later claimed to be the surviving Russian princess (and the legal heir

to the Romanov fortune). The most famous of them was a German who called herself Anna Anderson; she spent much of her life embroiled in a legal battle to prove her 'true' identity, before her case was rejected in 1970 by a West German court.

Hollywood was certainly intrigued by the rumours – Ingrid Bergman won an Oscar for her portrayal of a surviving Anastasia in an eponymous 1956 film. In the end, however, advances in science threw a bucket of cold water over the survival theory. Genetic testing of the contents of a shallow grave near the site of the Romanovs' murder revealed Anastasia's remains.

Anna Anderson: the grand fraud who claimed to be a grand duchess



An eyewitness account regarding the fate of Nicholas's youngest daughter, Anastasia, makes for particularly unsettling reading. "She kept running about and hid herself behind a pillow, on her body were 32 wounds," it reads. "She then fell down in a faint. When they began to examine her she began to scream wildly, and they dispatched her with bayonets and butt ends of their rifles."

A few hours later, in a remote wood just a few metres from the house, the last Romanovs were dumped in two pits, covered in acid and set alight. Lenin's revenge over that once mighty dynasty was as brutal as it was complete. ☀

GET HOOKED

READ

The Romanovs: 1613-1918 by Simon Sebag Montefiore (W&N, 2017) regales how the Romanovs turned a ragged principality into a magnificent empire, and how their grasp on that empire crumbled.

Weirdest pets ever kept

Sometimes, man's best friend has to take second place, but it's not always cats that make the cut

Words: Jonny Wilkes



Hepburn really fawned over her baby deer

AUDREY HEPBURN

PET: DEER

For her 1959 romance-adventure flick *Green Mansions*, the glamorous movie star had an unusual screen partner – a baby deer. The animal trainer on set suggested she take little Pippin, or Ip for short, home for a few days so the two could bond, and they became inseparable. They went shopping, attended parties and snuggled, much to the jealousy of Hepburn's other pet, Mr Famous the Yorkshire Terrier.



After Cambridge, Byron's bear lived out its days at the poet's ancestral home in Nottinghamshire

LORD BYRON

PET: BEAR

When Byron arrived at the University of Cambridge and discovered that his college, Trinity, forbade students from having dogs in their rooms, he was disgruntled – but determined to find an alternative. The Romantic poet brought a tame bear instead, knowing the rules didn't specifically ban them, so the college would have to bate it. “I have got a new friend, the finest in the world,” he wrote in 1807. The bear stayed in his lodgings and walked with him around the grounds; Byron joked it should even go for a fellowship.



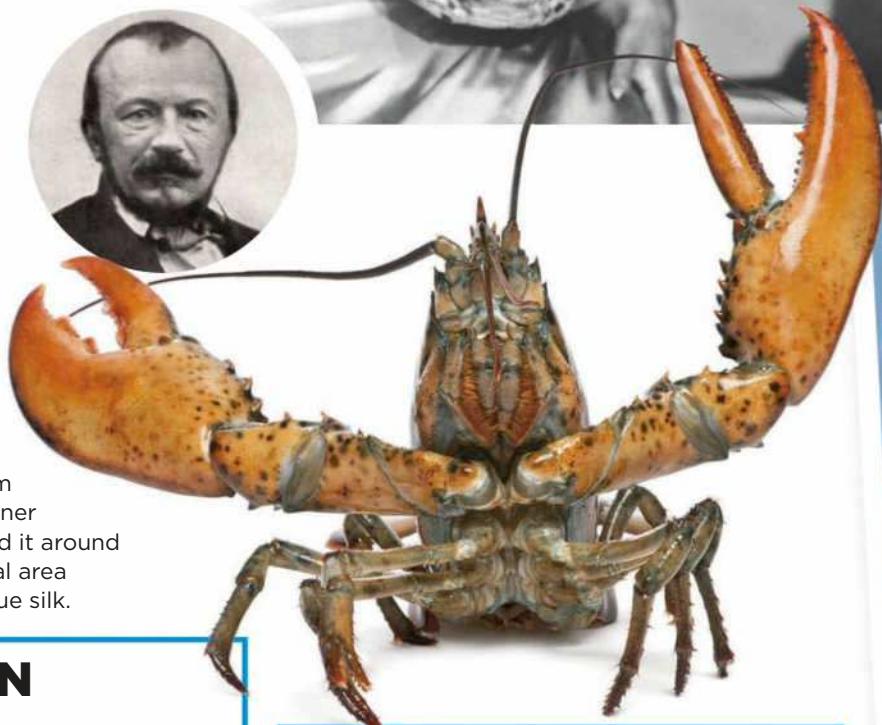
Baker used her prominence in Parisian society to feed intel to the French military at the outset of WWII and, after the German occupation, the resistance movement



GÉRARD DE NERVAL

PET: LOBSTER

“They are peaceful, serious creatures. They know the secrets of the sea, they don't bark and they don't gnaw upon one's monadic privacy like dogs do.” So wrote 19th-century French poet Gérard De Nerval (inset) about his pet of choice. Having snapped up one of the snappers from a net, saving it from the dinner plate, he supposedly walked it around the fashionable Palais-Royal area of Paris with a ribbon of blue silk.



ANDREW JACKSON

PET: PARROT

US presidents have owned some unusual pets – the veritable zoo in the White House has included an alligator, a hyena and a wallaby. Andrew Jackson's contribution was an African Grey Parrot with the unimaginative name Poll. Nothing too wild, it may seem, yet the bird picked up a number of rude words that it would mimic loudly. After Jackson died in 1845, Poll was allowed to be at the funeral, but had to be removed when it let loose a cavalcade of cussing. The mourners, claimed Reverend William Norment, were shocked at the parrot's “lack of reverence”.

One wonders where Jackson's bird learned such salty language





JOSEPHINE BAKER

PET: CHEETAH

A journalist once recalled going to the cinema with Josephine Baker, the biggest entertainer in 1920s Paris, and seeing cheetahs on the screen. It caused her to smile, as Baker had brought her own pet cheetah along. Chiquita had been a gift to be used in her show, but Baker had kept her. The speedy feline rode in Baker's car, shared her bed and travelled on a world tour, appearing on stage. Chiquita also frequently escaped into the orchestra pit, wreaking havoc.

The beloved big cat wasn't Baker's only odd pet; a goat lived in her dressing room



LUCIUS LICINIUS CRASSUS

PET: MORAY EEL

Eels became a popular sight for the elite of Rome, both as a delicacy and as pets, but arguably nobody loved them more than this first century BC consul. Crassus dressed his eel in necklaces and earrings, making it far better turned out than the slaves of his household, and he gave it a funeral. He copped criticism from a man named Domitius for weeping at the death of his pet, to which he retorted that Domitius had lost three wives without shedding a tear.

BEATRIX POTTER

PET: MICE, FROGS, RABBITS...

Many of Beatrix Potter's beloved characters were based on her own pets. She began drawing animals as a girl, not only to admire their cuteness, but due to a fascination with the natural sciences. Potter strove for anatomical accuracy – blue jackets, aprons and waistcoats aside – so she dissected her pets to make sure she got the muscle tone of her characters right.



History doesn't record the fate of family dog Spot



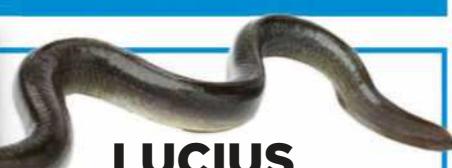
Just to reiterate the no cuddling rule, Ramesses named his lion 'Slayer of Foes'

They wore no armour in battle, but in the Pharaoh's palace the lions were bedecked with earrings and necklaces

RAMESSES II

PET: LION

Like any good Ancient Egyptian, Ramesses II loved his cats. The long-reigning Pharaoh brought them to his lands in huge numbers and chose the biggest of the lot for a pet. His lion wasn't for cuddling, though. It fought alongside his chariot at the Battle of Kadesh in 1274 BC.



LUCIUS LICINIUS CRASSUS

PET: MORAY EEL

TYCHO BRAHE

PET: MOOSE OR ELK

Astronomers don't come as eccentric as Tycho Brahe – he wore a metal nose, after all, due to losing his in a duel over a mathematical disagreement. The 16th-century Danish noble also let a tame moose or elk (stories differ) roam the corridors of his castle and enjoyed showing it off at parties, where it drank huge amounts of beer. That is, until it got so drunk that it fell down some stairs and died.

Brahe's moose also liked to trot alongside his carriage



MOZART

PET: STARLING

Is it that surprising that Mozart would pick a musical pet? He bought a starling in 1784 – after he taught it a few bars from his latest piano concerto while in the pet shop. The bird did get a couple of notes wrong, but Mozart was impressed and jotted down its variation.

For three years, the starling sang along with the great Austrian composer's playing. When it died, Mozart, who also lost his father a week earlier, held a service and wrote an epitaph. It began: "Here lies a little fool, whom I held dear."



Mozart held a general affection for birds

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you know of any other famous faces from the past who had unusual pets?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

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ZENOBLA

The woman who dared to take on Rome

Alicea Francis reveals how this third century Palmyrene ruler carved an empire under Rome's nose – and then lost it all

She looks regal here, but those gold chains are really shackles. This is Zenobia during her walk of shame through Rome



The chaos sown by Shapur I's triumph over Valerian led to Zenobia gaining control of the Eastern Roman Empire

RIGHT: Aurelian catches Zenobia as she tries to flee to Persia, whom she claimed were her allies

At the political heart of London, just outside the Palace of Westminster, stands a statue of a woman wielding a spear. Its presence serves as a daily reminder of Boudicca's defiance in the face of Roman invaders almost 2,000 years ago. But in Syria, a country ravaged by civil war, little remains to remind its people of their very own icon of Roman resistance: Zenobia.

Her story begins in Ancient Palmyra – the 'city of palm trees' – built on an oasis in the Syrian Desert. Though it's mentioned in tablets from the 19th century BC, it wasn't until its conquest by the Romans in AD 14 that Palmyra was put on the map. Rather than suffer at the hands of its occupiers, the city was granted autonomy and, in AD 106, the Silk Road was re-routed through it. The massive increase in caravan traffic fuelled the city's fortunes, thanks to the taxes imposed on the traders. Magnificent building projects were commissioned that showcased a fusion of Greek, Roman and Persian architecture. Palmyra was now a major centre of culture and trade.

It was into this thriving metropolis, around AD 240, that Septimia Zenobia was born. Her family were Roman citizens – a status that had been bestowed on her father's family – and

"Not only was Zenobia intelligent and athletic, she was also beautiful"

she received a good education in Greek, Latin, Egyptian and Aramaic. As a girl, Zenobia was put in charge of the family's shepherds, showing no hesitation when it came to commanding men. She became adept at riding horses, was a fine hunter and supposedly could drink anyone under the table.

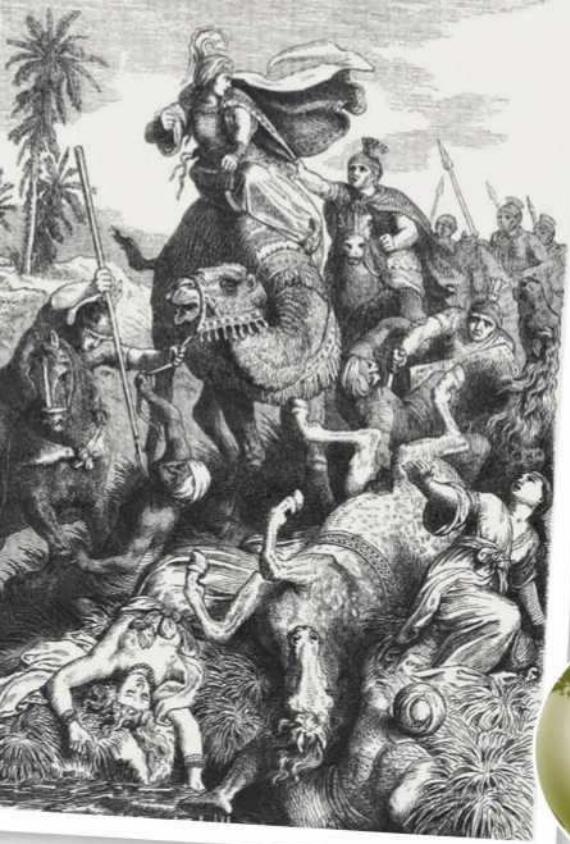
AS ALLURING AS CLEOPATRA

Not only was she intelligent and athletic, she was also beautiful. A description of her in the *Historia Augusta* – a fourth-century Roman collection of biographies – recalls: "Her face was dark and of a swarthy hue, her eyes were black and powerful beyond the usual wont, her spirit divinely great and her beauty incredible. So white were her teeth that many thought [that they were] pearls." Perhaps it was this combination of looks and brains that caught the eye of Septimius Odaenathus, the governor of Palmyra, whom she married when she was in her teens.

Rome, meanwhile, had fallen into crisis. In AD 235, Emperor Severus Alexander had been murdered by his own troops, beginning a protracted period in which Roman generals fought each other for the crown; 11 men would sit on the imperial throne over the next 20 years. The decaying empire fell victim to frequent barbarian raids in the western provinces, while in the east the Sassanids were growing in power.

In AD 253, the Sassanid ruler Shapur I launched an invasion of the empire's eastern territories. Emperor Valerian marched to confront Shapur's army, but in AD 260 he was defeated and captured at the Battle of Edessa. According to legend, he was used by Shapur as a footstool before eventually dying in captivity, after which he was stuffed and put on display.

The Sassanids began ransacking Roman cities in the region, and it seemed like only a matter of time before they would reach Syria. Realising that autonomy under the Romans



was far better than becoming a Sassanid footstool, Odaenathus organised a defence force. With Valerian's son Gallienus too busy dealing with the collapse of the western provinces to send aid, he instead made the decision to declare Odaenathus as 'corrector totius Orientis' – commander-in-chief of the whole East – and put him in charge of defending the frontier. He was now the de facto ruler of the Eastern Roman Empire.

For seven years, Odaenathus managed to keep the Sassanids at bay. But, around AD 267, he

was assassinated by an unknown conspirator, leaving the crown in the hands of his ten-year-old son by Zenobia, Vaballathus. As the boy was too young to rule on his own, Zenobia stepped in as regent. Having accompanied Odaenathus on his many campaigns, often choosing to march alongside the soldiers on foot, she had earned the respect and loyalty not only of Palmyra's people, but also of its finest generals. The transition, therefore, was smooth, and she was crowned Queen Mother of Palmyra within a day of her husband's death.

Though she was careful to acknowledge fealty to Rome, she asserted the right of her son to inherit his father's newly acquired title. But her subjects knew that it was Zenobia who held the reins of power. At court, she surrounded herself with intellectuals and philosophers, including the renowned Cassius Longinus. She dressed herself in the finest silk and jewels, and was waited on by eunuchs. As a ruler, she showed great tolerance towards her multicultural citizens and ensured the protection of Palmyra's religious minorities.

SHEDDING HER STRINGS

However, it soon became clear that she was not content to remain a Roman client. She began forging allegiances with other major cities nearby and, in AD 270, while the Emperor Claudius was busy fighting the Goths, Zenobia ordered her troops into Bosra – capital of Rome's Arabian province. With the city captured, the Palmyrene army continued south along the Jordan Valley, claiming the entire province, along with Judaea. With so much instability throughout the Roman Empire, they were met with little resistance. Claudius's name was removed from the region's coinage, replaced instead with that of Vaballathus.

Encouraged by news of Claudius's death that summer, Zenobia made her most daring move yet, dispatching her army to conquer Roman-occupied Egypt. The prefect there, Tenagino Probus, mounted a strong but futile defence, and committed suicide upon defeat.

With Zenobia now claiming to be a descendent of Cleopatra and the Ptolemies, she declared herself the legitimate successor to the throne



ABOVE: Soldiers hang on Zenobia's every word as she addresses them in this 18th-century painting. RIGHT: The Palmyrene Queen had coins struck bearing her son's face to replace those featuring the Roman Emperors



FIVE MORE FEARSOME QUEENS



ARTEMISIA I

FIFTH CENTURY BC

◀ As Queen of the Greek city-state of Halicarnassus, Artemisia I personally commanded her navy in the Battle of Salamis as an ally of the invading Xerxes I of Persia. Xerxes, who watched the fighting from the shore, said: "My men have become women; and my women, men."

BOUDICCA

DIED CIRCA AD 60

The Queen of the British Iceni tribe, Boudicca led a revolt against the Romans after they ignored her late husband's will and took his kingdom for themselves. Her 100,000-strong army destroyed Londonium, but was defeated in the Battle of Watling Street.

ÆTHELFLÆD

CIRCA AD 870-918

The daughter of Alfred the Great, Æthelflæd married Æthelred, Lord of the Mercians, to form an alliance between the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia. After Æthelred's death, she led an army to victory against the Danelaw, which marked the beginning of the end for Viking rule in England.

NZINGA

1583-1663

◀ After becoming regent of Ndongo and Matamba (part of modern Angola), Nzinga led troops against the colonising Portuguese. Following a long struggle, the Portuguese requested a peace treaty, and she remained in power until her death aged 80.

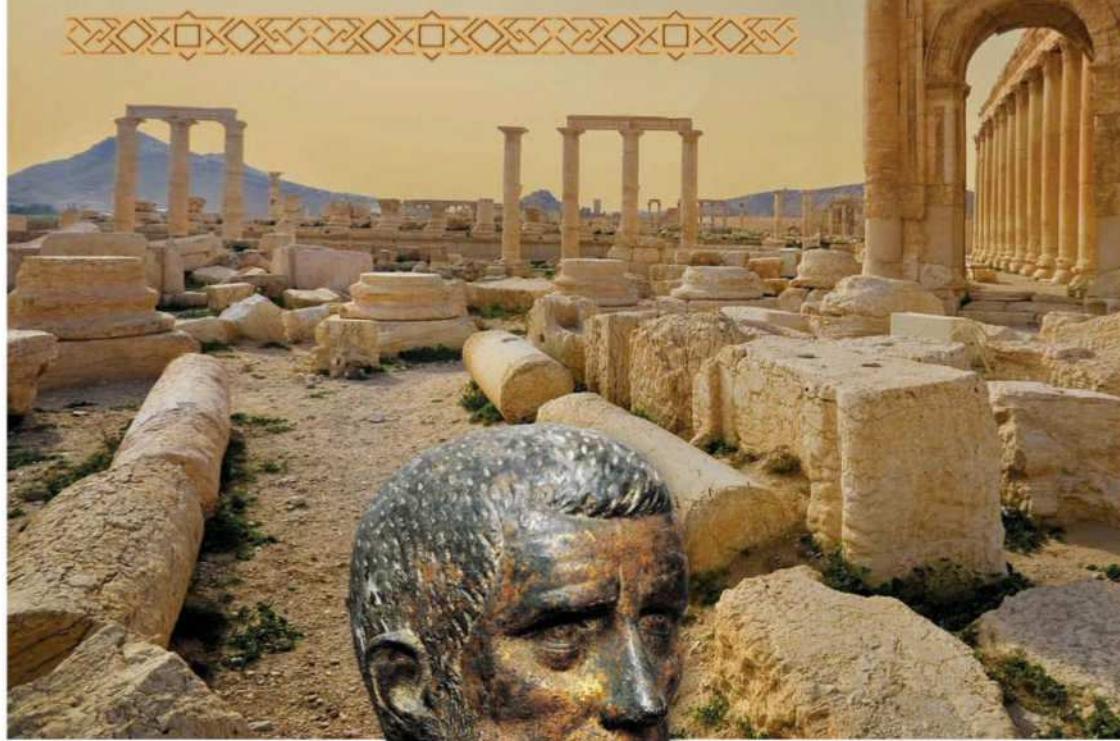
LAKSHMI BAI

1828-1858

Lakshmi Bai succeeded to the throne of Indian princely state Jhansi as regent. When the British refused to acknowledge her and attempted to annex Jhansi, she mounted a spirited defence, but was eventually killed in battle.



"At her trial, Zenobia blamed her actions on her advisors"



and Egypt became part of the ever-growing Palmyrene Empire. Finally, in AD 271, Zenobia invaded Anatolia, with her army getting as far as Ancyra (modern-day Ankara). By August, her empire was at its zenith.

In Rome, things were changing. Into the power vacuum had stepped Aurelian, an infantryman who had risen through the ranks to become Emperor; a soldier first and a politician second. With some stability finally established in the west, in late-271 Aurelian began marching east, simultaneously sending a fleet of ships across the Mediterranean Sea to reclaim Egypt. By April AD 272, he had crossed the Bosphorus and entered Anatolia.

OMENS IN THE NIGHT

One night, the great philosopher Apollonius came to him in a dream and said: "Aurelian, if you wish to rule, abstain from the blood of the innocent." The Emperor heeded his advice, and rather than raze the rebelling cities to the ground, he offered to spare them. The policy bore fruit, as other cities – seeing that surrender to a merciful Emperor was better than enduring a bloody siege they would likely lose – quickly gave up their arms. Ancyra was regained without a struggle and nearby Tyana put up minimal resistance.



Aurelian was Emperor until AD 275 – he was murdered on his way to battle the Sassanids

May AD 272 saw Aurelian and his men approaching Antioch, where Zenobia's forces were waiting for him. Their armies met in a field at Immae, where they squared off in traditional battle formations, with infantry in the centre and cavalry on the flanks. Aurelian

could see that the heavily armoured Palmyrene cataphracts (cavalry) were far superior to his own horsemen, but he realised that this could be used to his advantage. They charged towards each other but, just before they engaged, Aurelian's lighter cavalry broke ranks and began to retreat. The Palmyrene general, Zabadas, sensing victory, ordered his cataphracts to pursue them. But with the Syrian sun blazing down on their chain mail, they quickly became exhausted, and when they did so, the Romans turned back around and attacked. Very few of the Palmyrene cavalry made it back alive.

Zenobia and her surviving forces retreated to Antioch and, under the cover of darkness, fled south. But Aurelian was hot on their heels. When the armies met again at the Battle of Emesa, it was the Palmyrene cavalry who unwittingly broke ranks, enabling the Roman infantry to attack their vulnerable flank. Once again, Zenobia was defeated. All that was left was to defend her capital.



The Arch of Triumph, one of Palmyra's most spectacular ruins, was thought to commemorate Roman victories over Parthia

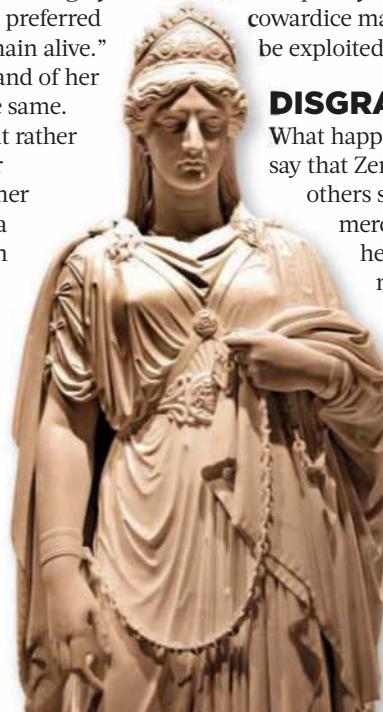
Back in Palmyra, Zenobia began preparing the city for a siege. But the Romans, now in control of much of the surrounding area, blockaded her supply chains, and her resources quickly ran dry.

A letter arrived that read: "From Aurelian, Emperor of the Roman World and Recoverer of the East, to Zenobia and all others who are bound to her by alliance in war ... I bid you surrender, promising that your lives shall be spared." But proud Zenobia was undeterred. She replied: "From Zenobia, Queen of the East ... You demand my surrender as though you were not aware that Cleopatra preferred to die a queen rather than remain alive." The last moment of her reign and of her life, she insisted, would be the same.

The city fell shortly after, but rather than follow the example of her supposed ancestor and die at her own hand, Zenobia mounted a camel and fled in the direction of Persia. She was captured before she could even cross the Euphrates River.

According to the *Historia Augusta*, Zenobia and her son were brought to Emesa for trial, where she blamed

Zenobia was not acknowledged as Palmyra's sole sovereign, even though she was in practice



REBUILDING PALMYRA

Following its capture by Islamic militants in May 2015, Palmyra was subjected to a 'cleansing' of its pagan heritage. Many of its millennia-old buildings and monuments were destroyed, despite promises by ISIL to leave them intact.

In response to the destruction, in October 2015 Creative Commons founded the New Palmyra Project, which uses public-domain photography of the city to build 3D models that could be used in its reconstruction. So far, two funerary busts have been restored, along with the Lion of Al-lāt, which now resides

in the National Museum of Damascus. Unfortunately, work on the city itself cannot begin until the violence in Syria ends, but it's estimated that 98 per cent of the site can be salvaged.

In the meantime, efforts are being made elsewhere to immortalise the fallen monuments. In April 2016, a replica of the 2,000-year-old Arch of Triumph – based on Creative Commons photography – was unveiled in Trafalgar Square. It has since been displayed in various locations around the world, including New York and Dubai.



All that remains of the Temple of Bel; it, like the Arch of Triumph, was destroyed by ISIL

her actions on her advisors – namely Longinus, who was sentenced to death. However, with no contemporary reports of the trial, this show of cowardice may just be a Roman invention, to be exploited as propaganda.

DISGRACE, NOT DEATH

What happened next is unknown. Some say that Zenobia was beheaded, while others say that Aurelian showed mercy, and she lived the rest of her life in relative comfort. The most famous version of the story describes how she was brought back to Rome and paraded through the streets in gold shackles, weighed down by so much jewellery that she could barely stand.

Palmyra too fell back into relative obscurity. The Silk Road was redirected

to bypass the city, and it remained little more than a minor legionary outpost for the rest of the Roman period. It was subsequently ruled by various Muslim factions, and finally reduced to a small village following its destruction by the Timurids in 1400.

Thankfully, much of the architecture from Zenobia's heyday remained intact, including the Lion of Al-lāt, the Temples of Baalshamin and Bel, and the Tower of Elahbel. They survived largely unscathed for a further 615 years, until, in 2015, Palmyra came under the control of ISIL during the ongoing Syrian Civil War. After surviving for almost two millennia, these ancient monuments, along with many others, were destroyed in the space of just five months. ☀

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Zenobia a courageous hero standing up to Rome? Or was she warmongering and power hungry?
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SPECIAL OFFER



John Blanke in his resplendent turban on the Westminster Tournament Roll

JOHN BLANKE

THE MOST FAMOUS AFRICAN IN TUDOR ENGLAND

Henry VIII's black trumpeter was no slave – the fact he had wages tells us that. But who was he, and where did he come from? **Miranda Kaufmann** fills in the blanks

Although at least 200 Africans lived in Tudor England, John Blanke is the only one for whom we have a portrait. Indeed, he appears twice – both times in the Westminster Tournament Roll, a 60ft vellum manuscript commissioned by Henry VIII in 1511. It was his proximity to the King that explains why he was portrayed. For John Blanke had worked at the Tudor court as a trumpeter to Henry VII and Henry VIII since at least 1507.

We know this because there are a series of records of him being paid wages. The first of these dates to early December 1507, when he was paid

20 shillings for the month of November, equivalent to a rate of eight pence a day. That meant his annual salary was £12, three times the average servant's wage.

We don't know how John Blanke came to England, but the most likely explanation is that he arrived from Spain in the retinue of Katherine of Aragon, who came to England in 1501 to marry Prince Arthur, Henry VIII's elder brother.

There were many Africans in Spain. Between 1441 and 1521, an estimated 156,000 Africans arrived in Spain, Portugal and the Atlantic islands. By 1550, Africans made up 7.5 per cent of the population of Seville. In 1574, the city was described as "a giant chessboard

containing an equal number of white and black chessmen", so it makes sense that Katherine could have had a black trumpeter in her entourage.

When Henry VII died in spring 1509, Blanke was one of the trumpeters who played at his funeral, dressed in black. A few weeks later, this time dressed in scarlet, he played at Henry VIII's coronation. Scarlet cloth was reserved for the higher-ranking royal servants, while lesser men wore red.

Both events were great royal spectacles. The funeral procession from Richmond to Westminster Abbey took two days, with large crowds gathered to watch. The coronation ceremonies stretched over three days, and included another



A black trumpeter appears (top left) in this tapestry of the 1520 Field of the Cloth of Gold. Could it be Blanke, in the employ of France?



Blanke seems to have been well regarded by Henry VIII, and may have been known to Katherine of Aragon

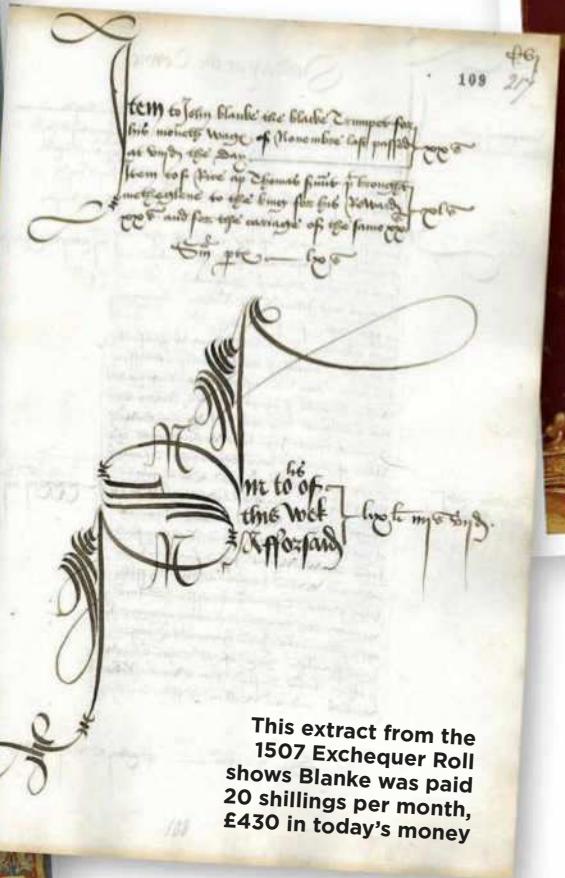
procession, a banquet and a tournament – all of which required a great deal of trumpet playing.

Shortly after Henry VIII came to the throne, Blanke petitioned him for a pay rise on the basis that his current salary was “not sufficient to maintain and keep him”. He points out that another trumpeter, Dominic Justinian, had died recently, and so the King could afford to promote him to a wage of 16 pence a day – especially considering Blanke’s “true and faithful service”, which he intended to continue for the rest of his life.

This was double what he was getting before. In a clever, though standard, final clause, it is stated that if the King signs the petition, that will be “sufficient warrant” for the request to be granted. Henry did indeed sign the document, and Blanke got his pay rise.

Blanke was not the only trumpeter paid at the rate of eight pence a day under Henry VII, and they were still being hired at that rate in the 1540s. But Henry VIII also employed another group of trumpeters at 12 pence a day. Wages, it seems, varied depending on experience, skill or length of service.

A couple of years later, Blanke was one of several trumpeters to play at the Westminster Tournament



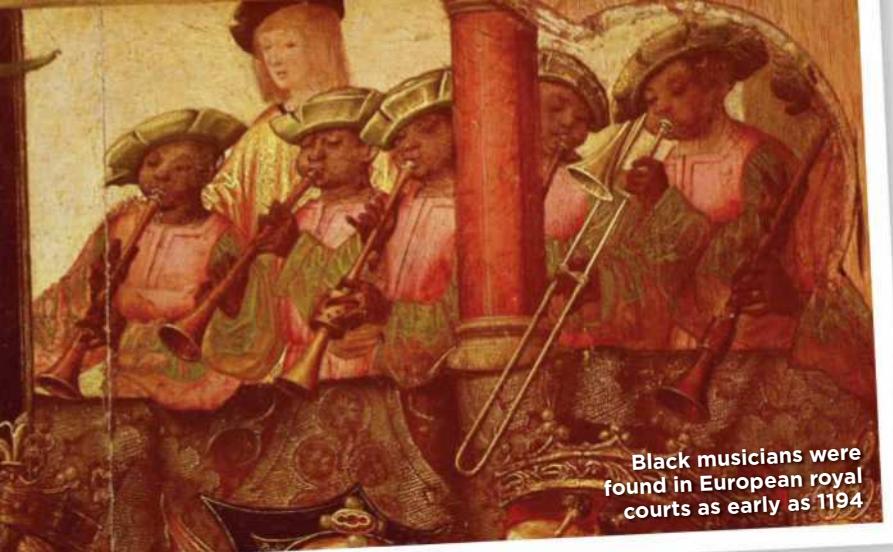
This extract from the 1507 Exchequer Roll shows Blanke was paid 20 shillings per month, £430 in today's money

of 1511, held on 12 and 13 February to celebrate the birth of a short-lived son to Henry VIII and Katherine of Aragon. He was born and named Henry on 1 January 1511. The tilting yard was outside Westminster Hall, roughly where Parliament Square is today. Stands were erected to seat the lords and ladies of the court, who looked on as costumed knights entered the lists in pageant cars, hung their shields upon artificial trees, and fought among elaborate scenic devices that transformed their combat into episodes from chivalric romances.

BLOW BY BLOW

The trumpeters would have had to work hard, as they were required to provide fanfares at every stage of the proceedings. The extent of their workload is reflected in the fact that they were paid 10 times their usual day's salary for their services. In the Westminster Tournament Roll, they are shown twice; once at the beginning of the procession to the joust and again signalling the end of the day's sport. The tournament ended with a banquet, with entertainment provided by the King and his courtiers, who dressed up for a theatrical performance. Again, much trumpet music was needed.

In the roll, Blanke wears the same brown and yellow livery as the other musicians, and the rest of the royal entourage. But he is distinguished from his bareheaded companions by his turban. It is brown and gold in the first depiction of him, and green and gold



in the second. The turban suggests an Islamic heritage and its relatively flat shape is reminiscent of North African or Andalusian styles. This might give us a clue as to where Blanke was from. That said, Henry VIII enjoyed dressing himself and his courtiers in Turkish and Moorish fashions, and so may have chosen to dress Blanke in this way.

The next we hear of Blanke is that he married in 1512. We know this because the King gave him a wedding present. On 14 January 1512, a warrant was made by Henry VIII to the Great Wardrobe (the part of the royal household that kept the King clothed) to deliver to John Blanke, "our trumpeter", a gown of violet cloth, a bonnet and a hat, "to be taken of our gift against his marriage".

The ceremony probably took place at St Nicholas' Church in what is now Deptford. We don't know who he married, but it seems likely she would have been English. The fact that he married means he must have been a Christian by this time, as marriage required both parties to be baptised.

"That he married means he must have been a Christian"

The mention of this wedding present is the last we hear of Blanke in the records. He does not appear in the next full list of trumpeters in January 1514.

THE PAPER TRAIL ENDS

We don't know what became of him. Perhaps he went to work in another European court; musicians were quite mobile at this time. Or his marriage may have given him the opportunity to take up a new profession – it was not uncommon for court servants to marry a widow and take on her husband's former trade in London.

A more morbid explanation is that he died. This could have happened in the fire that consumed the living quarters

of the Palace of Westminster in 1512, or at the Battle of the Spurs in France or the Battle of Flodden in Scotland, which both took place in 1513.

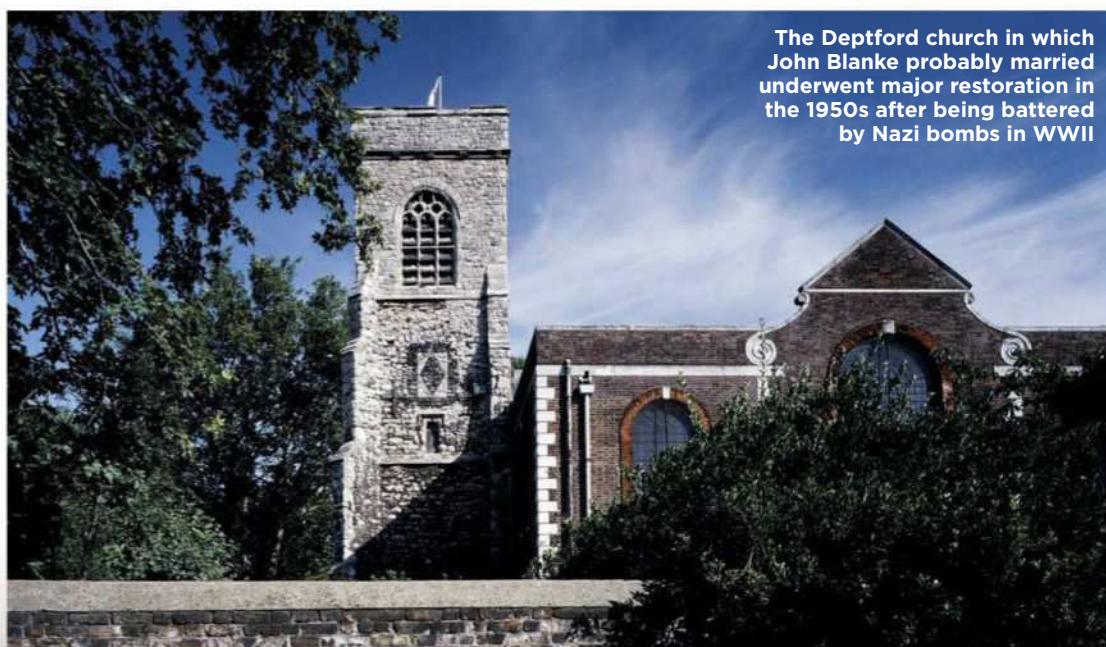
Was Blanke a free man? Too often, people assume that all Africans in Europe at this time were enslaved. We are bombarded with images of enslaved Africans, often dating to later periods or other countries, most recently in the film *12 Years a Slave* and the TV series *Roots*. But people at the time made other assumptions. For example, in 1572, Juan Gelofe, a 40-year-old African man enslaved in a Mexican silver mine, told an English sailor named William Collins that England "must be a good country as there were no slaves there". Collins replied, "It was true, that they were all freemen in England."

Gelofe and Collins were right – there was no law of slavery in England. As William Harrison explained in his *Description of England* in 1577: "As for slaves and bondmen, we have none; nay such is the privilege of our country by the especial grace of God and bounty of our princes, that if any come hither from other realms, so soon as they set foot on land they become as free in condition as their masters, whereby all note of servile bondage is utterly removed from them."

The only known court case to explicitly consider the issue of slavery in this period resolved "that England has too pure an air for slaves to breathe in". This played out in practice. In 1587, a Portuguese-Jewish doctor called Hector Nunes admitted in a petition to the Court of Requests that he had no remedy "by the course of the common law of this realm" to compel an Ethiopian who "utterly refuses to tarry and serve" him.

Africans themselves reported becoming free in England. In 1490, Pero Alvarez told the King of Portugal that he had been set free by Henry VII of England. And over a century later, Diogo, an African who was taken to England by an English pirate in 1614, reported to the Portuguese Inquisition that when he laid foot on English soil "he immediately became free, because in that reign nobody is a slave".

John Blanke would also have become free when he arrived in England, if he was not free already. The fact that he was paid wages and able to marry are further indicators of his freedom. ☀



GET HOOKED

BOOK

Black Tudors: The Untold Story by Miranda Kaufmann (One World, 2017) explores the lives of John Blanke and many more Africans who lived and died in 16th-century England.

DEATH IN THE SADDLE

As a world champion and a true showman, Tom Simpson was the most popular British cyclist of his generation. But then, as **Nige Tassell** explains, tragedy struck during the 1967 Tour de France

In the last hour of his life, Tom Simpson steels himself for the challenge of Mont Ventoux. He never reached the summit



You didn't need to be a cycling aficionado to know that the rider was in trouble. His bike was zigzagging back and forth across the narrow road cut into the mountainside, pinballing between bank and precipice.

In the support car behind him, both his team manager and mechanic sprang into action. The intense heat of southern France in July hit them as they charged out of their car and towards the ailing rider. The mercury had reached 55°C that day on the fearsome Mont Ventoux, on the 13th stage of the 1967 Tour de France.

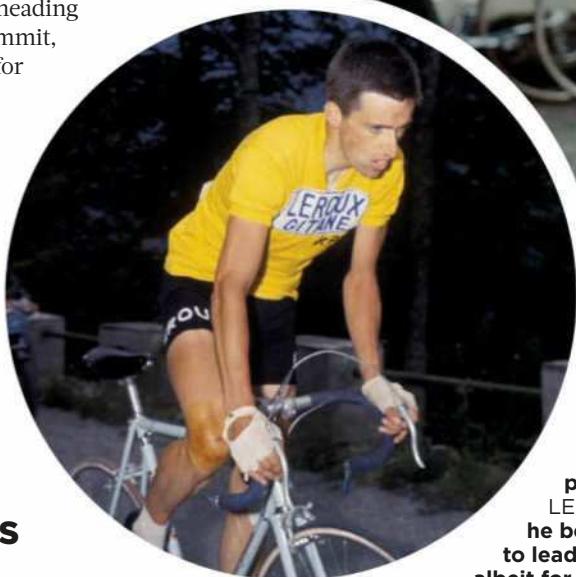
The man on the bike was no ordinary Joe. This was Tom Simpson, the British former world champion. He was no world beater that day, though. The heat, and the unrelenting gradient heading towards Ventoux's summit, had apparently done for him. The mechanic, Harry Hall, was first to Simpson, who had collapsed into the bank. Hall explained to the barely conscious rider that his Tour was over. Simpson, far from coherent, nonetheless got his message across: "On, on, on..."

STARING EYES

As the British team's manager, Alec Taylor respected his lead rider's determination and the pair pushed him back on his bike and back up the mountain. Within a few hundred metres, though, the wobbles and the zigzagging returned, swiftly followed by another fall. Taylor and Hall guided Simpson and his bike, with no small amount of difficulty, to the side of the road where they set their rider down on the white stones of the Ventoux. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation was attempted, but the pair recognised its futility. "He had a yellow transparency," Hall later recalled. "My lasting memory is of his eyes, just staring eyes. There was no sweat on his face. The sweat had gone. It had a waxy, transparent look, with no colour on the top of his skin." Tom Simpson was just 29.

According to biographer William Fotheringham, Hall believes Simpson "died somewhere between the moment when he was put back on his bike and his second fall. There was no sign of life when [Hall] was carrying him off the road: like a sleeping child, Simpson was not supporting himself. He was a dead weight." In order to separate him from his bike, his fingers had to be peeled off the handlebars.

Born in County Durham in 1937 and raised in Nottinghamshire, Tom Simpson was a man



ABOVE: Simpson arrived on the continent as a professional in 1959
LEFT: Three years later, he became the first Brit to lead the Tour de France, albeit for just a single day

who outgrew his modest upbringing to become a true sporting icon. Until that fateful July afternoon in Provence, he was British cycling's most successful export to mainland Europe. His palmarès – the list of his racing achievements – was seriously impressive for a rider not born in the traditional cycling strongholds of France, Spain, Italy, Belgium or the Netherlands. In 1962, he became the first rider from outside mainland Europe to wear the sainted yellow jersey in the Tour de France, even if he only took possession of it for a single day. His overall finish of sixth place that year was, in a world lightyears from the title-scooping exploits of Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome, the highest that a British rider had yet achieved in the race.

Simpson then enjoyed success in the Classics, road cycling's fabled one-day races. In 1963, he won the 350-mile Bordeaux-Paris; the following year, he took first place in Milan-San Remo, a mere stripling of a race at 185 miles long. His greatest one-day triumph, though, came in 1965 when he took the world road race crown with victory in San Sebastián in northern Spain. The win allowed Simpson to wear the coveted rainbow jersey of the world champion for the



Never one to turn down a cheesy photo opportunity, Simpson swaps wheels for hooves ahead of Stage 16 of the 1964 Tour



"SIMPSON WAS BRITISH CYCLING'S MOST SUCCESSFUL EXPORT TO MAINLAND EUROPE"

Simpson soaks up the applause of the French crowd as he rides around the Parc des Princes velodrome, having just won the 14-hour Bordeaux-Paris race in 1963



MONT VENTOUX: THE BALD MOUNTAIN

Mont Ventoux – the peak on which Tom Simpson drew his last, stuttering breath – deserves respect and fear in equal measure. Many mountains have been afforded iconic status thanks to their regular appearances on the ever-changing routes of the Tour de France. None but Ventoux caused the French theorist Roland Barthes to describe it – a full ten years before Simpson offered himself to its slopes – as “a god of evil to whom sacrifice must be made”.

Among the high peaks of the Tour, Ventoux stands apart, both literally and figuratively. It's an anomaly amongst the lush greenery of Provence, one of southern France's most fecund regions. Indeed, vineyards and lavender meadows line the mountain's lower slopes. It's higher up that its evil is unleashed: a barren, lunar-like landscape both otherworldly and wild. The last portion of its 13-kilometre climb is home to vicious cross-winds and intense temperatures, all with the added bonus of blindingly bright sunlight reflecting off the white limestone. On Simpson's last day, the temperature was well above 50°C.

Ventoux has tried to claim other cycling victims. In 1955, the French rider Jean Malléjac lay unconscious on the side of the road for 15 minutes before being administered life-saving oxygen. That same day, heatstroke caused the Swiss rider Ferdi Kübler to become delirious and crash several times on his descent. Not even the greatest-ever cyclist was immune to the Bald Mountain's challenges. In 1970, the all-conquering Eddy Merckx acknowledged the victory of landscape over man after collapsing following his stage win: “No, it's impossible...”

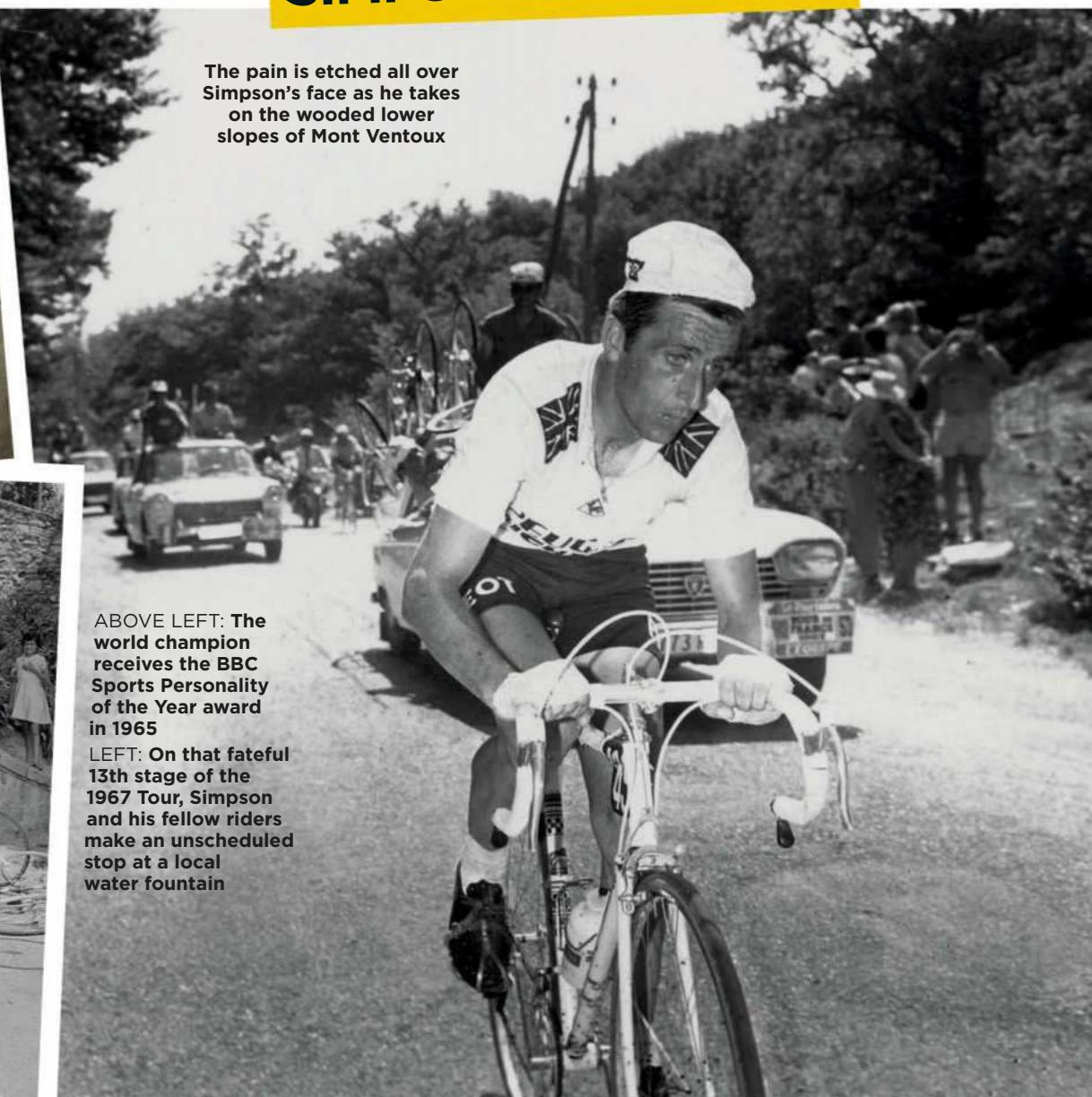
Topped by its distinctive meteorological station, Mont Ventoux is one of the most iconic, and most notorious, peaks visited by the Tour de France



After his victory in San Sebastián in September 1965, Simpson had the privilege of wearing the world champion's rainbow jersey for the following 12 months



"THE DOCTOR FOUND THREE TUBES OF AMPHETAMINES UNDER SIMPSON'S JERSEY"



The pain is etched all over Simpson's face as he takes on the wooded lower slopes of Mont Ventoux



ABOVE LEFT: The world champion receives the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in 1965

LEFT: On that fateful 13th stage of the 1967 Tour, Simpson and his fellow riders make an unscheduled stop at a local water fountain

Simpson (centre) in happier times at the 1967 Tour, pictured here alongside his British team-mates



following 12 months, as well as winning him the BBC Sports Personality of the Year prize.

After an injury-plagued 1966, Simpson began the following season in fine form. Not only did he win the prestigious Paris-Nice stage race, he also won two stages of the Vuelta à España – aka the Tour of Spain. The portents looked good for the Tour de France. He was desperate to not only be the first Brit on the podium on the final day in Paris, but also wanted to put in a high-profile race in order to secure a lucrative deal with an Italian squad that was after his signature.

Simpson's race ended up being high profile for all the wrong – and very tragic – reasons.

UNLUCKY THIRTEEN

Sitting in sixth position overall on the morning of the last day of his life, Simpson had identified the Mont Ventoux stage as a crucial one. A strong day in the saddle could provide the platform from which to launch an assault on the race's upper echelons, possibly even reuniting him with the yellow jersey.

The 13th stage was certainly one of the most arduous of the 1967 race. Mont Ventoux is a commanding presence on the surrounding landscape, a pyramid of bright-white limestone where, towards its peak, no vegetation grows. It is one of the Tour de France's most infamous climbs. As well as being notorious for its whipping winds, on the hottest days of the

year the last few airless miles before its summit replicate the feeling of being trapped in an oven.

But Tom Simpson didn't die of heat exhaustion. This was surely a contributory factor, but the main cause of his premature death was the cocktail of drink and drugs sloshing around his body. At this particular time in the Tour de France's evolution, riders weren't allowed to take drinks from their support cars, even on the most viciously hot days, so instead took liquid refreshment wherever they could find it. Thus it wasn't unusual for riders to leap from their bikes in a particular town in order to raid bars and cafés in search of drinks that would allow them to rehydrate and recover for the next passage of a particular stage.

That day, though, the fluid that Simpson took on board didn't rehydrate him. His intake was largely brandy, liberated from a local café by another British rider. Its diuretic properties were heightened by what else was in Simpson's bloodstream.

As race doctor Pierre Dumas rushed to administer potentially life-saving treatment to a collapsed Simpson on the Ventoux, he discovered three amphetamine tubes – two empty, one half-empty – under the rider's jersey.

PUBLIC IMAGE

The discovery of the amphetamines partially, and unsurprisingly, discoloured Simpson's reputation. Until then, he had been one of the most popular riders on the Tour, one willing to undergo cheesy humiliation for the greater good.

Simpson himself declared that it was the rider's duty "to secure as much publicity as possible for his sponsors: he is an entertainer, a publicity agent and a sportsman all rolled into one – in that order". If a newspaper asked him to wear a sombrero, he'd wear one. If a fireman's helmet was required instead, on it would go. And if – as once famously happened – Simpson was approached to become the quintessential Englishman in a photoshoot (bowler hat, cup of tea, copy of *The Times* under his arm), his participation would be very swiftly agreed.

While appearing to be the embodiment of Englishness – or, at least, Englishness as perceived from the other side of the Channel as the '60s started to swing – Simpson was much more than that. In moving to continental Europe as a young pro in 1959, he immersed himself in European culture, living first in Brittany, then Paris, before settling over the Belgian border in Ghent. He learned several languages on the way.



Simpson's portrayal as the archetypal English gent was at odds with the reality of the pill-popping cyclist

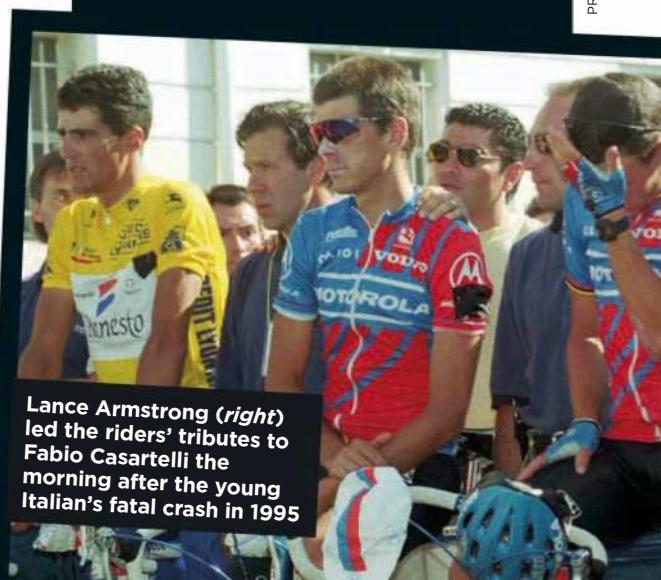
TRAGEDY ON THE TOUR

Over its 115-year history, the Tour de France has experienced its fair share of fatalities, whether they be officials, journalists or spectators killed in accidents. Yet deaths among its riders are comparatively rare; aside from Tom Simpson, the death count within the peloton stands at three.

In 1910, on a rest day during the eighth running of the Tour, a 19-year-old French rider called Adolphe Hélène was the first rider to join the choir invisible. While soothing his aches and pains in the Mediterranean at Nice, he drowned – although an alternative take on his demise suggests he was victim to a deadly jellyfish sting.

The second rider death came exactly 25 years to the day after Hélène's drowning. On Bastille Day in 1935, while negotiating – at dangerously high speeds – the sharp bends of the notorious Col du Galibier mountain in the Alps, Francisco Cepeda's bike left the road and disappeared down a ravine. The Spaniard died en route to hospital.

After Tom Simpson's death on the unforgiving slopes of Mont Ventoux, it would be nearly another 30 years before the race saw a further rider fatality. As in 1967, the casualty was another high-profile competitor. Fabio Casartelli was a 24-year-old Italian who, in 1992, had won Olympic road race gold. Three years later, while riding for Team Motorola under Lance Armstrong's captaincy, Casartelli and a handful of other riders were involved in a collision during another perilous mountain descent, this time in the Pyrenees. As he fell, the young Italian fatally hit his head on a concrete block on the side of the road. His death precipitated the compulsory use of helmets in the race.



Lance Armstrong (right) led the riders' tributes to Fabio Casartelli the morning after the young Italian's fatal crash in 1995

BELOW: Medics and bystanders urgently try to save the Englishman's life in the hostile environment of Ventoux
RIGHT: Simpson's memorial remains a site of pilgrimage to British riders



THE OVERLOOKED CHAMPION

Tom Simpson wasn't Britain's only cycling hero of the 1960s, but he was the one to attract all the headlines and column inches. This is despite the presence of another rider who very much eclipsed Simpson's achievements and won many more titles. Her name was Beryl Burton.

Burton was born in Leeds in 1937. Like her male counterpart, she took on the international elite and beat them: she was a seven-time world champion (five times on the track, twice on the road). She also claimed an incredible 96 national titles, all won as an amateur otherwise engaged as a labourer on a rhubarb farm or being a housewife and mother.

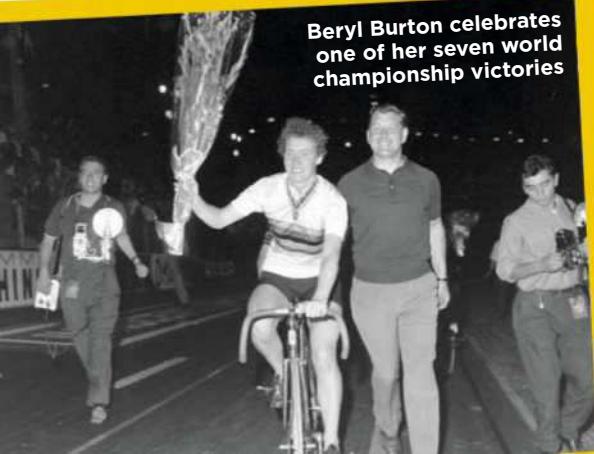
Beryl Burton celebrates one of her seven world championship victories

L'ÉQUIPE/OFFSIDE X1, GETTY X1, TOPFOTO X1

All those titles aside, her crowning glory was the day in 1967 when she set a new world record for the distance covered in 12 hours. But it wasn't just the women's record she smashed. She also took a sizeable chunk out of the men's record, having overtaken Mike McNamara, the rider on his way to setting that new men's record. As she passed McNamara, Burton offered him a liquorice allsort.

"Had it been any other sport than cycling," the TV commentator Phil Liggett later observed, "it would have been front-page news. It almost slipped under the doormat, apart from the cycling magazines who knew the enormity of what she'd done. As far as I know, it has never been done anywhere in the world either, where a woman has got up and beaten a man's record in the sport."

Like Simpson, Burton died doing what she lived for: riding her bike. But her own point of departure wasn't a brutal mountain in Provence. She succumbed to heart failure while riding around the streets of Leeds delivering party invitations for her forthcoming birthday. She never made it to 59.



Such a wholesale embrace of the European way earned him plenty of respect and admiration. But Simpson was also held in great esteem on the continent for what he did on a bike. "His tactics were straightforward and uninhibited," explains Fotheringham. "It was better to try the utmost, fail and be visible rather than wait and hope." This was a virtuous trait. Simpson's French admirers declared that "he left no one indifferent".

POINT OF NO RETURN

Another biographer of Simpson, Andy McGrath, would agree with this portrait. "He was not the greatest natural talent or a conjuror of magic, but a man who maintained an emotional transparency on and off the bike. His heart-on-his-sleeve suffering was clear to see and his outlook on life was humble." Simpson just felt he had to achieve his ambitions by whatever means necessary. And, thanks to the turn-a-blind-eye leniency running the sport at the time, he wasn't the only one taking the chemical route.

The drugs took away the capacity for reason. As the rider-turned-journalist Jean Bobet observed at the time, amphetamine "suppresses the body's natural warning signals and a cyclist who accepts this can never know if he is going too far". On that afternoon on that mountain, one Englishman didn't know he'd gone too far.

History remembers a driven, courageous rider who bent the rules not necessarily to prosper, but to survive. This is the version of Tom Simpson that lives on in the public consciousness. His ghost still haunts British cycling, serving as both benchmark and cautionary tale. His memorial, at the precise spot on Mont Ventoux where he fell, remains a site of near-holy pilgrimage for those of a two-wheeled persuasion.

More than 50 years on, the tragedy of Tom Simpson continues to be an irresistible one. ☀

GET HOOKED

BOOKS

Put Me Back On My Bike: In Search of Tom Simpson by William Fotheringham (Yellow Jersey Press, 2002) and *Tom Simpson: Bird on a Wire* by Andy McGrath (Rouleur, 2017) are both vivid accounts of the cycling icon's life.

Three Weeks, Eight Seconds: The Epic Tour de France of 1989 by Nige Tassell (Polaris, 2017) relives what is held to be the greatest Tour ever.

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Q&A

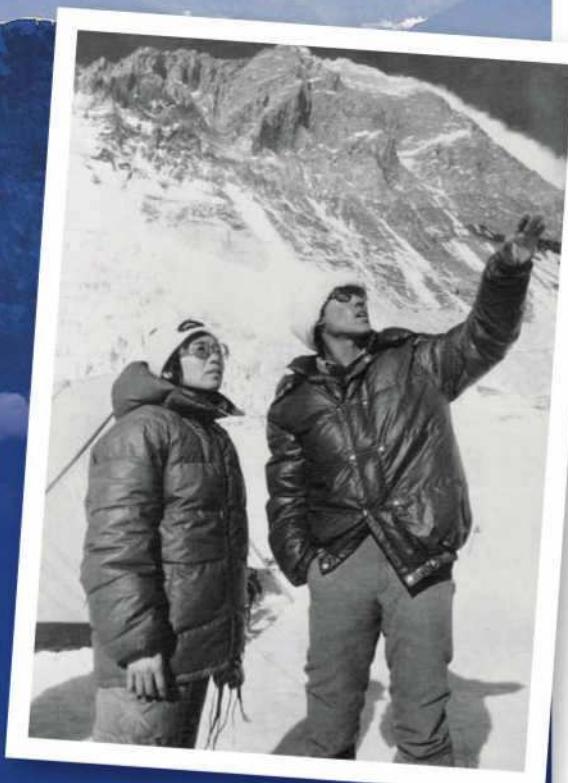
YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



DID YOU KNOW?

RACE TO THE TOP

Unknown to Junko Tabei – whose first thought on summiting Everest was “Oh, I don’t have to climb anymore” – another expedition with female climbers was making an ascent from the other side. They made the top 11 days later.



WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMAN TO CLIMB EVEREST?



“I was the 36th person to climb Everest,” was how Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei once understatedly described her 1975 ascent of the world’s highest mountain, when she became the first woman to reach the summit.

Throughout her mountaineering career, Tabei scaled new heights (pun intended). In 1969, she formed the first women’s climbing club in Japan – with the slogan “Let’s go on

an overseas expedition by ourselves” – partly because of the way she had been treated by some male climbers. Some simply didn’t want to climb with her, while others claimed she was only doing so as a means of finding a husband. Ironically enough, she did actually marry a fellow climber, whom she met in 1965.

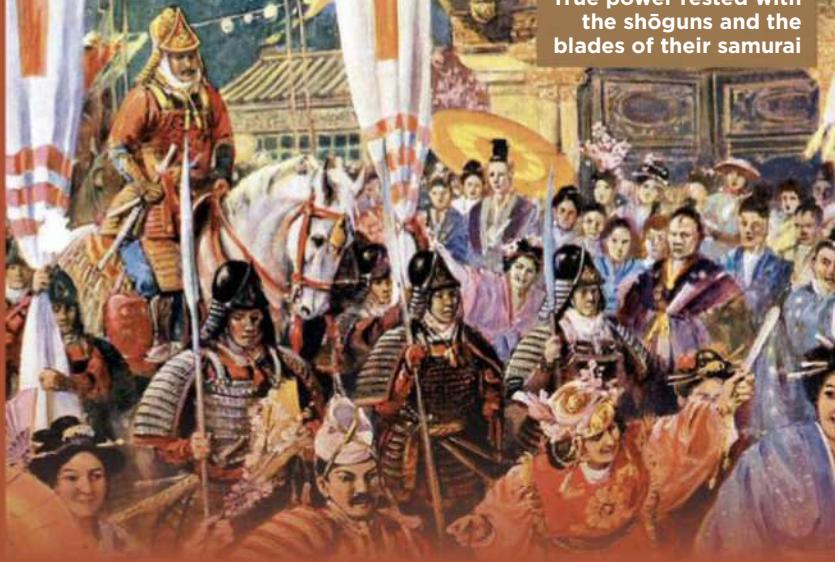
During her Everest ascent, using the same route as Hillary and Norgay 22 years earlier, an avalanche struck

the team’s camp, knocking Tabei unconscious for several minutes. She had to be dug out of the snow by one of the Sherpas. Injured, she persisted with the ascent and, 12 days later, made it to the top of Everest alongside Sherpa Ang Tsering.

Tabei went on to achieve a host of other firsts – including, in 1992, becoming the first woman to ascend the Seven Summits, the highest peaks on every continent.

ON THE UP
Tabei (*left*) plans her route with Tsering; she began climbing mountains aged 10

IN COMMAND
True power rested with
the shōguns and the
blades of their samurai



WHO WAS THE FIRST JAPANESE SHŌGUN?

For nearly seven centuries, Japan had a system of government with a single, dictatorial figure at the top – and no, it wasn't the Emperor. He may have been a heavenly representative, beloved by all and with a heritage traditionally going back to 660 BC, but his imperial stature could not match the real power resting in the hands of the military leader, the shōgun.

The shōgunate was founded in 1192, when Japan had become increasingly divided by feuding daimyō (feudal lords) looking to take control of the weak imperial court. Minamoto no Yoritomo emerged as the victor and took the title of Sei-i Taishōgun, which had been awarded to military commanders since the eighth century, as sign of his de facto rule of the country. While remaining officially

subservient to the Emperor, now nothing more than a ceremonial head of state, he established a new administration at his base in Kamakura and created a new hereditary dynasty.

The shōguns ruled over hundreds of domains, kept the peace, managed foreign affairs and collected taxes from the daimyō in the form of rice. On a number of occasions, a weak ruler fell prey to a usurper, but the system endured until 1867 and it took the end of Japan's isolationist policy to finally bring it down. As Western intervention expanded, nationalists overthrew the Tokugawa shōgunate in favour of a strong Emperor. This became known as the Meiji Restoration.

ALAMY XI GETTY XS

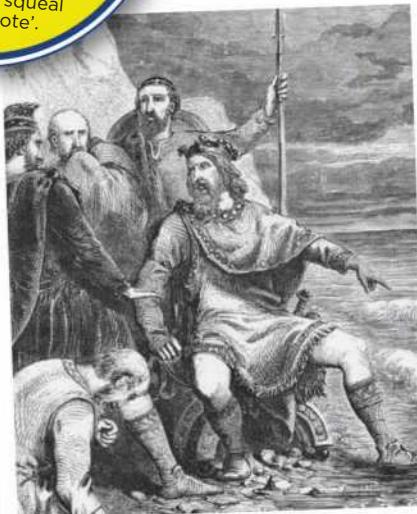
Did King Cnut really attempt to command a tide?

Cnut was a mighty 11th-century warrior who became King of England, Denmark and Norway, brought peace and prosperity, and earned the sobriquet 'the Great'. Yet, as well as having a name in need of careful spelling, he is best remembered for something that probably never happened and unfairly misrepresents him.

Supposedly, he had his throne placed on the shore and commanded the incoming waves "not to rise onto my land, nor to presume to wet my clothing or limbs of your master".

Unsurprisingly, he ended up a bit soggy. The apocryphal tale is still cited as evidence of Cnut's arrogance, but when recorded by Henry of Huntingdon in the 12th-century *Historia Anglorum*, it was to praise the King's humility. Cnut had wisely, and at the expense of his dry legs, demonstrated to his courtiers that only God is all powerful.

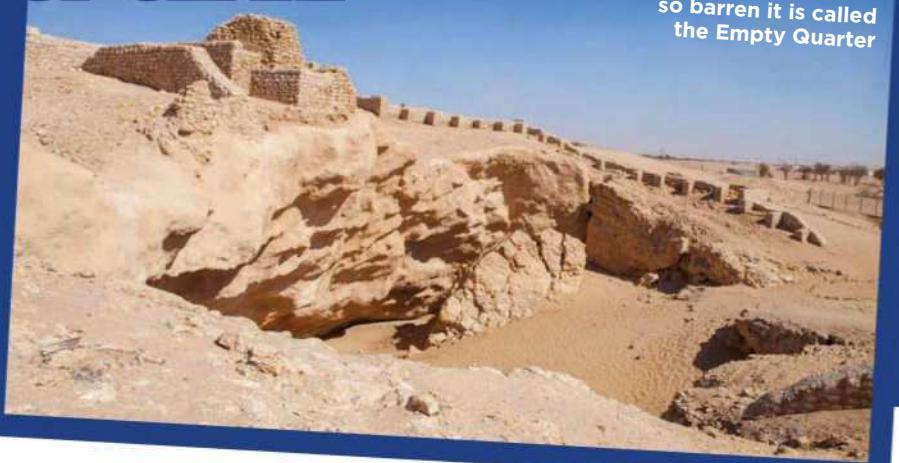
For a ruler who actually took on the sea, look no further than Xerxes of Persia, who had the water whipped, or infamous Roman Emperor Caligula's declaration of war on Poseidon.



ALL AT SEA
His servants
may well have
thought Cnut a
bit wet behind
the ears after
this stunt

WHERE IS THE CITY OF UBAR?

Lawrence of Arabia called it the 'Atlantis of the Sands', and it appears in both the *Quran* and *One Thousand and One Nights*. Built 5,000 years ago in the Arabian Desert, the legendary city of Ubar flourished as a centre for the frankincense trade for centuries, before being lost either to a natural disaster or to a punishment from God. While lesser known than other lost cities, interest in Ubar, also known as Iram of the Pillars, was reignited in 1992 when an archaeological dig located an ancient eight-sided fortress, complete with towers, in a massive sinkhole in Oman's Dhofar Governorate. Dig leader Nicholas Clapp declared it to be Ubar, but the debate continues.



SAND CASTLES
The fortress is in an area so barren it is called the Empty Quarter

SUCH A CARD
The joker's postcard
was unearthed in
a stamp collection



HOW OLD IS THE POSTCARD?

ANSWER Answers on a postcard, please. Austria, Germany and the US have quibbled over who sent out the first official one, sometime around 1870, yet they were all pipped to the post by three decades, thanks to a practical joker in England.

In 1840, Theodore Hook sent a hand-painted rectangle of card to an address in Fulham, London. His own address, to be exact. Yes, he sent himself the first postcard, intending it to be a jibe at the postal service as his image depicts a caricatured line of scribes scrawling away in the post office. Hook's joke certainly was worth it for someone

else – the postcard sold at auction in 2002 for £31,750.

He was also ahead of his time by putting a picture on it. Early postcards were blank, the idea being that the address filled one whole side and the message the other. The addition of pictures encroached on message space, until someone had the brainwave of dividing one side in half with a black line. It was a hit that launched a slew of postcard crazes worthy of modern-day social media. Hundreds of millions of postcards were sent and collected.

How did Pitt the Younger become PM so young?

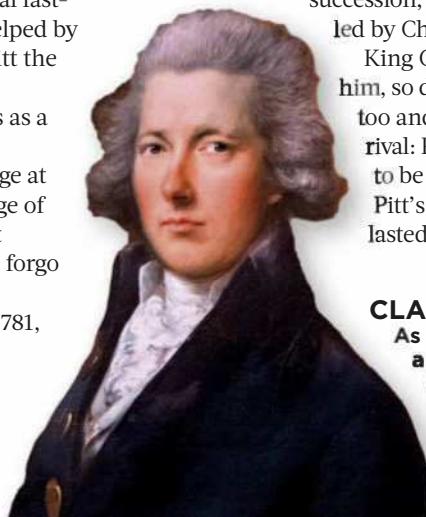
ANSWER The average age of a British Prime Minister exceeds 50, more than double William Pitt's 24 years when he entered Downing Street in 1783. His political fast-tracking was certainly helped by the fact that his father, Pitt the Elder, had an esteemed reputation from his years as a statesman, and that Pitt graduated from Cambridge at 17, having taken advantage of a venerable privilege that allowed sons of nobles to forgo their final exams.

He was elected MP in 1781, to the rotten borough of Appleby, Westmorland

– which essentially meant all he had to do was befriend the landowner – at a chaotic time for parliament. Several governments collapsed in quick succession, leaving a coalition led by Charles James Fox.

King George III detested him, so dismissed that one too and turned to Fox's rival: Pitt. It was meant to be temporary, but Pitt's first term in office lasted 17 years.

CLASS ACT
As in, class had a lot to do with Pitt's rise



4

The number of people who have been awarded two Nobel Prizes: John Bardeen (both in Physics); Frederick Sanger (both in Chemistry); Linus Pauling (Chemistry and Peace); and Marie Curie (Physics and Chemistry).

PRINCE OR PEASANT?
Mummification was no measure of social status

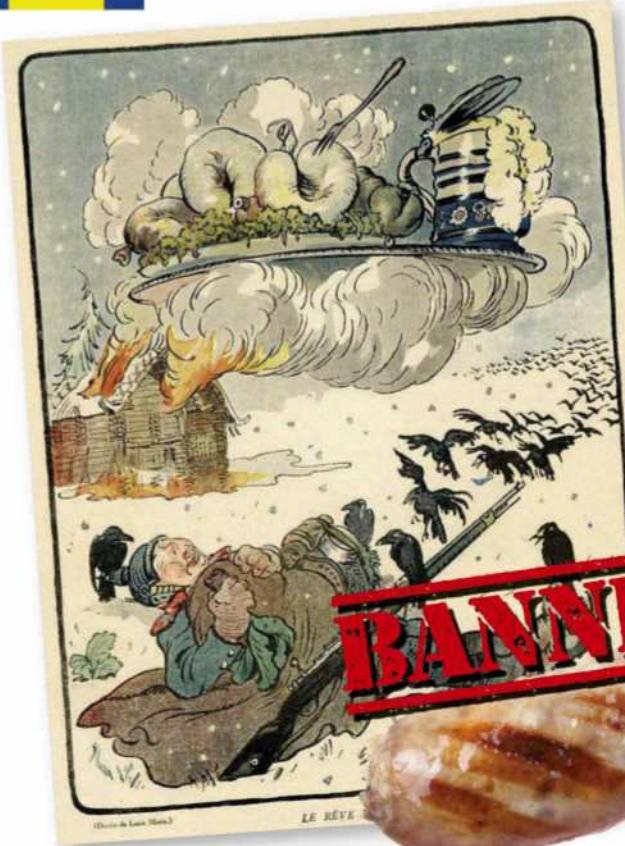


What is the oldest mummy ever found?

ANSWER Mummies are as much an image of Ancient Egypt as the pyramids, the Sphinx and hieroglyphics. The preserved remains of rulers rank among the greatest treasures discovered in the sands around the Nile and, of course, have inspired countless movies of bandaged corpses brought to life by a curse. Yet civilisations all over the world performed mummification, with some mastering the art thousands of years before the Egyptians – and that is not to mention naturally preserved mummies.

The Chinchorro people, of modern-day northern Chile and southern Peru, boast both natural and prepared mummies, and are the oldest yet discovered. Since the early 1900s, 282 of them have been unearthed. Around one-third were naturally preserved in the extremely dry, nitrate-rich ground of the Atacama Desert – the oldest being a staggering 9,000 years old – and the rest have survived due to a number of mummification processes not wholly dissimilar to those seen in Egypt.

The soft tissue and organs would be removed and the body stuffed with straw, vegetable fibres and ash, with sticks used to maintain shape. A clay mask would be placed over the face, then the body wrapped in reeds and left to dry, and finally buried. Unlike in other civilisations, like Ancient Egypt, everyone in Chinchorro society was mummified. The oldest human-made mummy, dating to 5050 BC, is of a child.



WHY WERE GERMANS BANNED FROM EATING SAUSAGES IN WWI?



For the war effort, the Germans were their own wurst enemy.

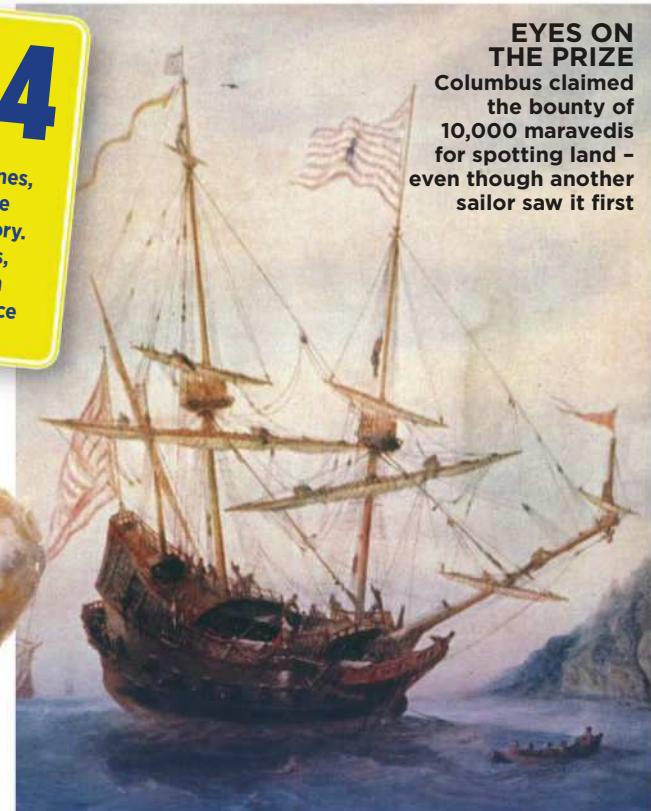
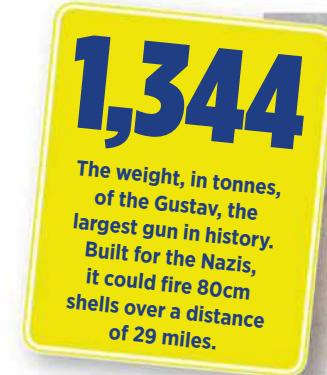
The demand for cow intestines to make casings for the hydrogen gas used on Zeppelins became so great that a sausage ban had to be implemented in Germany, Austria, Poland and northern France. The ban certainly wasn't to help

send sausages to the men on the front lines (supplying them with another kind of banger, as it were). German troops had their own food troubles and had to improvise some alternatives, known as ersatz food. They drank coffee made of acorns, ate 'lamb' chops of rice and chomped on bread with a dash of sawdust.



BOVINE BLIMPS

Each airship required 250,000 cow guts, leaving the soldiers to dream of sausage



EYES ON THE PRIZE
Columbus claimed the bounty of 10,000 maravedis for spotting land – even though another sailor saw it first

Why didn't Columbus reach North America?



To this day, Christopher Columbus is celebrated as the man who discovered America. Even putting aside the fact that Native Americans would disagree that Europeans 'discovered' their land, the Italian explorer never actually made it to what is now the United States. During his 1492 voyage, he landed on one of the islands of the Bahamas.

If it wasn't for his crew's bird-spotting, he would have stayed on course to make landfall at Florida. On 7 October, he changed direction to follow a flock heading southwest, believing it would make for land. Columbus was right, and his successful voyages launched an era of European exploration of the New World, but he never set foot on North America.



In Rudyard Kipling's 1890 poem of the same name, an English soldier in India speaks of the regiment's water bearer, called Gunga Din. It is far from a flattering portrayal of an Indian's lot in the British Army: he is beaten; called names like "limping lump o' brick-dust" and "squidgy-nosed old idol"; and eventually killed while tending to the wounded. For his bravery, though, the soldier confesses in the memorable last line "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din!" It became a well-known phrase and, in 1939, a film named after the poem's hero was made starring Cary Grant, but there never was a real Gunga Din.

FOUR'S A CROWD
Typical to the tale, the actor playing Gunga Din is omitted from the film's poster



Thanks to Richard Ives for sending in his questions

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS



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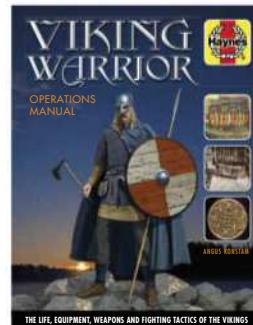
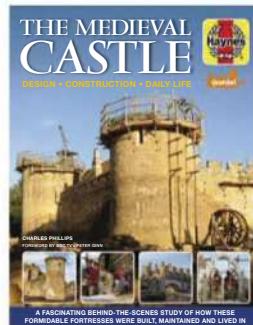
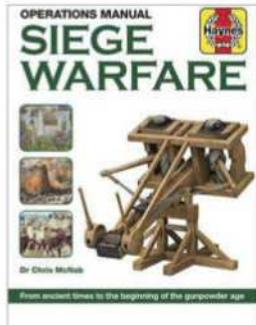


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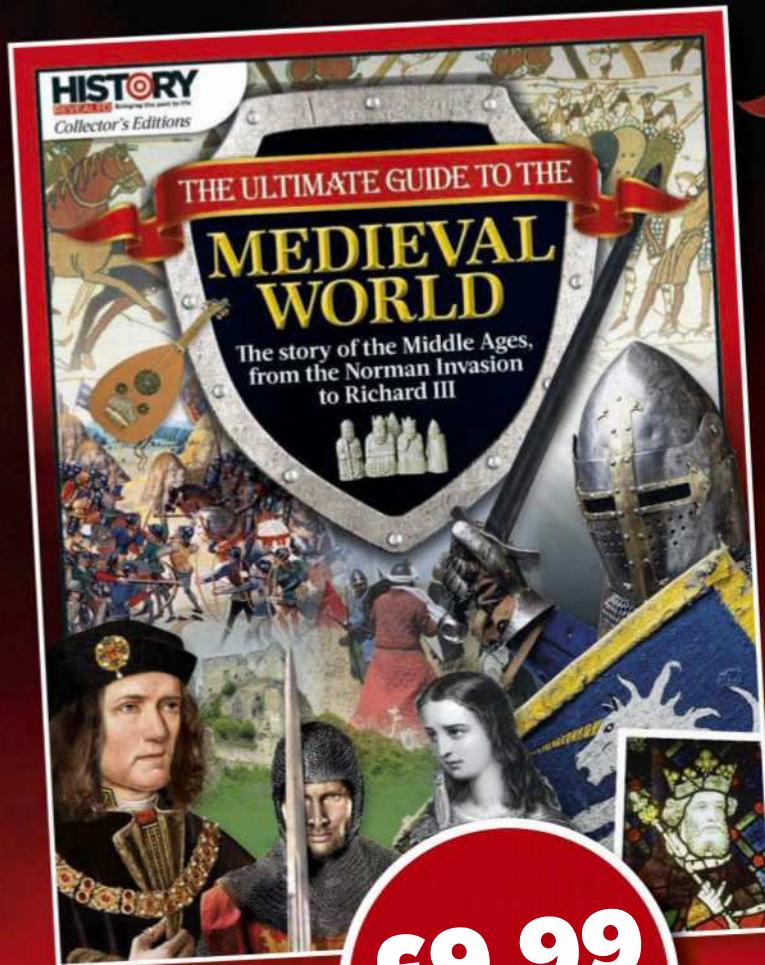
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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks

Stephenson built the *Rocket* for a competition to find a new locomotive for the Manchester and Liverpool Railway - which he won



LOCOMOTIVE ENGINE, "THE ROCKET," 1830.
Built by GEORGE STEPHENSON. 1830. 1042.

The *Rocket* remains a symbol of Britain's industrial triumphs

WHAT'S ON

The Roman dead.....p79



BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Bletchley Park, the home of codebreaking.....p84



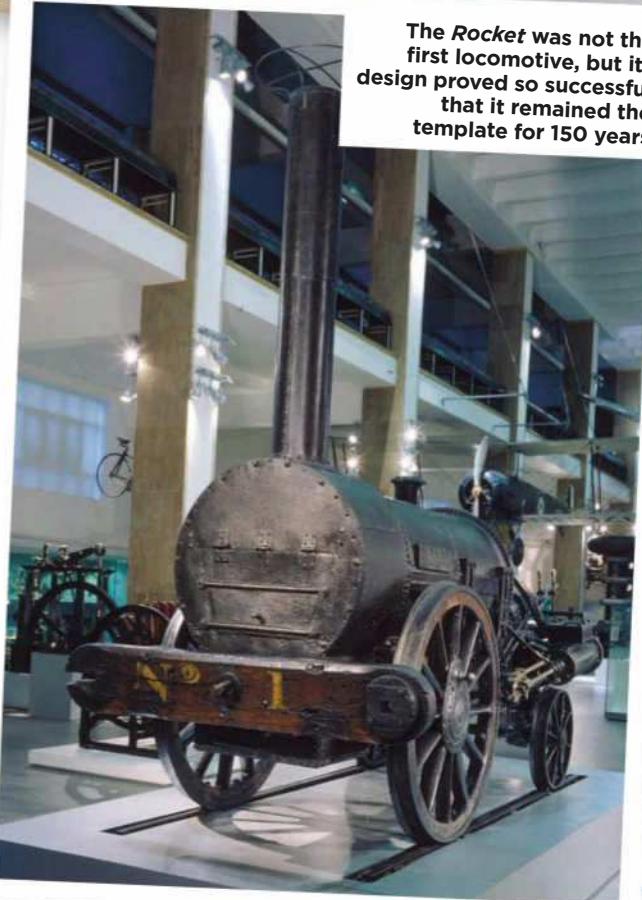
EXHIBITION

It's Rocket Science

Discovery Museum, Newcastle,
until 9 September

[https://discoverymuseum.org.uk/
whats-on/rocket](https://discoverymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/rocket)

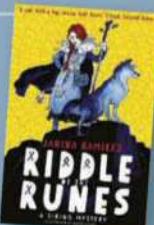
Stephenson's *Rocket* is returning to its birthplace for the first time since becoming a museum piece. As part of the Great Exhibition of the North, Robert Stephenson's exceptional feat of railway engineering, an early steam locomotive, will be on display in Newcastle. His groundbreaking design transformed the railways and changed the industrial landscape forever. An accompanying exhibition will explore the origins of the passenger railway, as well as speculating on how transport will develop in the future.



The *Rocket* was not the first locomotive, but its design proved so successful that it remained the template for 150 years

BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases....p86



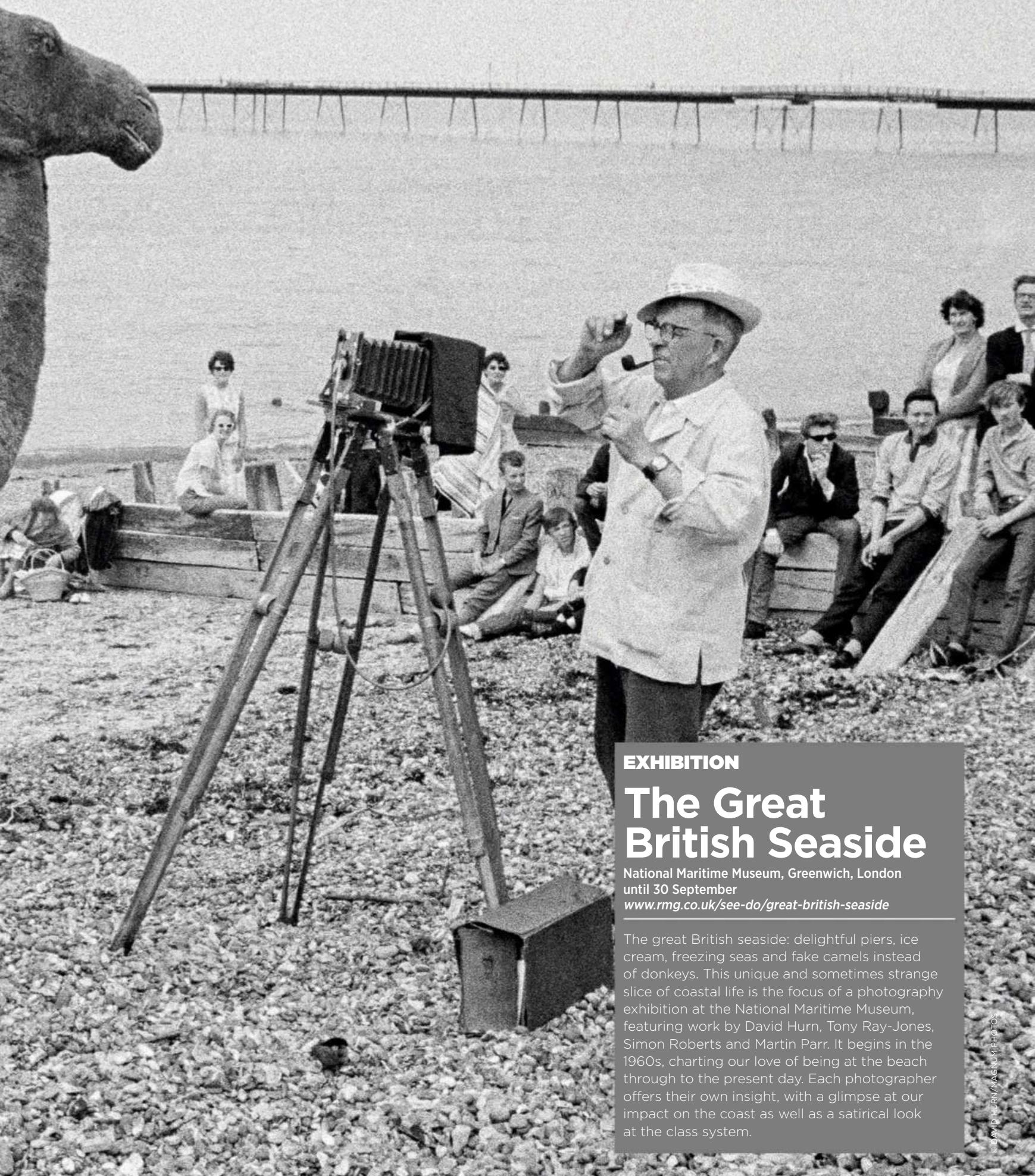
POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of historical landmarks...p90



ON OUR RADAR





EXHIBITION

The Great British Seaside

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London
until 30 September
www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/great-british-seaside

The great British seaside: delightful piers, ice cream, freezing seas and fake camels instead of donkeys. This unique and sometimes strange slice of coastal life is the focus of a photography exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, featuring work by David Hurn, Tony Ray-Jones, Simon Roberts and Martin Parr. It begins in the 1960s, charting our love of being at the beach through to the present day. Each photographer offers their own insight, with a glimpse at our impact on the coast as well as a satirical look at the class system.

EXHIBITION

Roman Dead

Museum of London Docklands, until 28 October
www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands

The rituals and beliefs of Roman Londoners will be uncovered at a major new exhibition. Along with tombstones and buried jewellery, a Roman sarcophagus that was discovered in Southwark last year will be on display for the first time. More than 200 burial goods, as well as skeletons and cremated remains, will piece together how death was dealt with in the city, how the afterlife was prepared for, and how these ancient people lived their day-to-day lives.

Treasures on show include a gamut of Roman grave goods, such as jewellery (below) and cremation urns (right)



The Roman skeletons were unearthed in ancient cemeteries



EVENT**We Dig the Castle**

Nottingham Castle,
16 July to 17 August
www.wedigthecastle.weebly.com

If you're a budding archaeologist, now's your chance to get your hands on some history by assisting in excavations at Nottingham Castle. We Dig the Castle is back for its fourth year, allowing trainee archaeologists, students and amateurs a chance to uncover the secrets of the past. Training will be given, so even with no experience you'll feel like a member of *Time Team* in no time. Everything from excavating techniques to processing your finds will be covered. The 2018 training sessions will focus on the castle's outer bailey as well as nearby Brewhouse Yard.



Learn the skills of test pitting, augering and find identification

TO BUY**Mummy Gem Necklace**

£55, The British Museum
www.britishmuseumshoponline.org

Designed by renowned jeweller Nicky Butler and inspired by the British Museum's Egyptian collection, this necklace is adorned with hand-set stones of turquoise, moonstone and amethyst. An ideal gift to add some ancient luxury.

The necklace encapsulates the luxury of Luxor



Elle Fanning and Douglas Booth star as literary lovers Mary and Percy Shelley

FILM**Mary Shelley**

In cinemas 6 July

This romantic drama tells the story of Mary Shelley, the young woman who, at the age of 18, wrote *Frankenstein* – a novel hailed as the foundation of science fiction, as well as one that transformed the gothic genre. The film explores both her scandalous love affair with Percy Bysshe Shelley and the creation of her most famous work.

EVENT**Tudor Pageant**

Pendennis Castle, Cornwall,
31 July to 2 August
www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/pendennis-castle

Don your best ruffs and join in the pomp of a classic Tudor celebration. Pendennis Castle was built as a defensive fort on the mouth of the river Fal at a time of tension between Henry VIII's England and both the Holy Roman Empire and France. Visitors will be transported back to this time with cannon and musket displays, as well as a play fit for a king.



There'll be dressing up options for those who really want to get into the Tudor spirit

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- International Jousting and Medieval Tournament Week – The jousting spectacular celebrates its 10th anniversary. From 24 to 29 July, Arundel Castle, West Sussex. www.arundelcastle.org
- Victorians' Worst Jobs – Experience a careers fair you definitely don't want to be recruited at. From 23 to 27 July, Audley End House, Essex. bit.ly/2JxnsnP

FUNNY GOINGS ON

The locals had no idea what Bletchley was. Given the sudden arrival of what they thought to be rather unusual characters, the rumour spread that it was a state-run lunatic asylum.

Bletchley codebreakers weren't solely focused on the Germans – they targeted Italian and Japanese messages too



BRITAIN'S TREASURES... BLETCHLEY PARK Buckinghamshire

World War II was not only fought with guns and bombs on the battlefields of Europe, but with mathematics and bombes on a quiet 19th-century estate

GETTING THERE:

The mansion's postcode is MK3 6EB. If travelling by car, take the M1 to Junction 13 and follow the signs; use postcode MK3 6DS for SatNavs. Bletchley train station is a few minutes' walk.



OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:
Open 9.30am-5pm from March to October, and 9.30am-4pm from November to February. Under 12s get in free.

FIND OUT MORE:
Visit www.bletchleypark.org.uk

The manor house could hardly be described as the most impressive or beautiful example of Victorian architecture – in fact, it was going to be torn down. But for Captain Ridley's Shooting Party, the building and its 58 acres of grounds were ideal.

They didn't want Bletchley for a weekend of hunting and cavorting. The name was a cover to hide the identities of Admiral Sir Hugh Sinclair, the head of the Secret Intelligence Service, and a select few as they scouted for a new home for the Government Code & Cypher School (GC&CS).

Bletchley is ensconced in the Buckinghamshire countryside near Milton Keynes. The real boon was that it sat between Oxford and Cambridge, where Sinclair expected to recruit many of the future codebreakers, and that it had good rail links to London. He snapped it up with £6,000 of his own money.

The men and women of 'Station X' laboured day and night to decipher intercepted enemy signals. Much of their time went on Enigma, a typewriter-like machine with multiple layers of encryption and 159 million

million million configurations. It was little wonder the Germans considered it to be unbreakable.

Faced with such a challenge, Bletchley was a never-sleeping hive of activity. The often-eccentric codebreakers – among them the brilliant mathematician Alan Turing – coordinated with military personnel in round-the-clock shifts, all the while adhering to the most important rule of not talking about their work.

Turing's first contribution came within a few weeks of his arrival, with the design of the 'bombe' – the electromechanical

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



VISITOR CENTRE

A visit begins in Block C with an interactive introduction into the work of the codebreakers, Enigma machines and the importance of Bletchley to the war effort.



HUT 11

A permanent exhibition delves into the bombe machines used to break Enigma. The noise and smell caused those who worked on the machines to dub the hut the 'hell hole'.



BLOCK B

There are exhibitions on Turing, the codebreaking process, the Home Front, Japanese codes and the Lorenz cipher. There is also a functional bombe.



MANSION

Step into the office of Alastair Denniston, head of the Government Code & Cypher School from 1919 to 1942, or the library, which served as a naval intelligence office.



HUT 8

A mug is chained to the radiator inside Turing's office, exactly as he kept his. The hut, whose occupants focused on naval Enigma, includes puzzles to test your codebreaking.



GROUNDS

On a sunny day you can wander around the lake and imagine what it must have been like when thousands of people formed a thriving, if secretive, community.

"Turing's first contribution came within a few weeks"

device Benedict Cumberbatch names Christopher in the 2014 film *The Imitation Game* – based on a machine made by Polish cryptographers. After a refinement by fellow mathematician Gordon Welchman, it proved capable of decrypting Enigma signals, albeit slowly.

Bletchley began with fewer than 200 staff, but the scale of the operation grew until the house was deemed insufficient. Turing and three of his colleagues wrote to the Prime Minister asking for more resources, to which Winston Churchill sent off a memorandum reading: "Action this day! Make sure they have all they want on extreme priority and report to me that this has been done."

Concrete blocks and wooden huts sprouted up for individual teams, and it was in Hut 8 that Turing worked tirelessly on the Enigma-encoded naval dispatches. The stakes were high: lives, ships and vital cargoes were being lost at sea at an alarming rate due to the Royal Navy not knowing the position of German U-boat 'wolfpacks'.

In contrast to this urgency was the act of codebreaking in itself; the days were long, tedious and often yielded little by way of result. Yet every breakthrough brought astonishing success.

"The goose that laid the golden egg and never cackled" was how Churchill described Bletchley. Even though nearly 10,000 people – mostly women – worked there

at its peak in 1945, the Germans never discovered that Enigma, and the even more complex Lorenz, had been so greatly compromised. The intelligence that was gathered, designated 'Ultra', shortened the war by two years, if not more.

After the war, the GC&CS returned to London and Bletchley played host to training schools for teachers, engineers, air traffic controllers and more. Its part in the war, however, remained secret, only coming to light in the mid 1970s when wartime documents were declassified.

The buildings were transformed into the present-day museum in the 1990s. Bletchley has given up its secrets at last, and remains a fitting tribute to the men and women who worked there. ☺

WHY NOT VISIT...

We've cracked the code on what else to see

NATIONAL RADIO CENTRE

Included in the entry fee to Bletchley Park, this exhibition tells the history of radio communications technology, beginning in the 19th century.
www.nationalradiocentre.com

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF COMPUTING

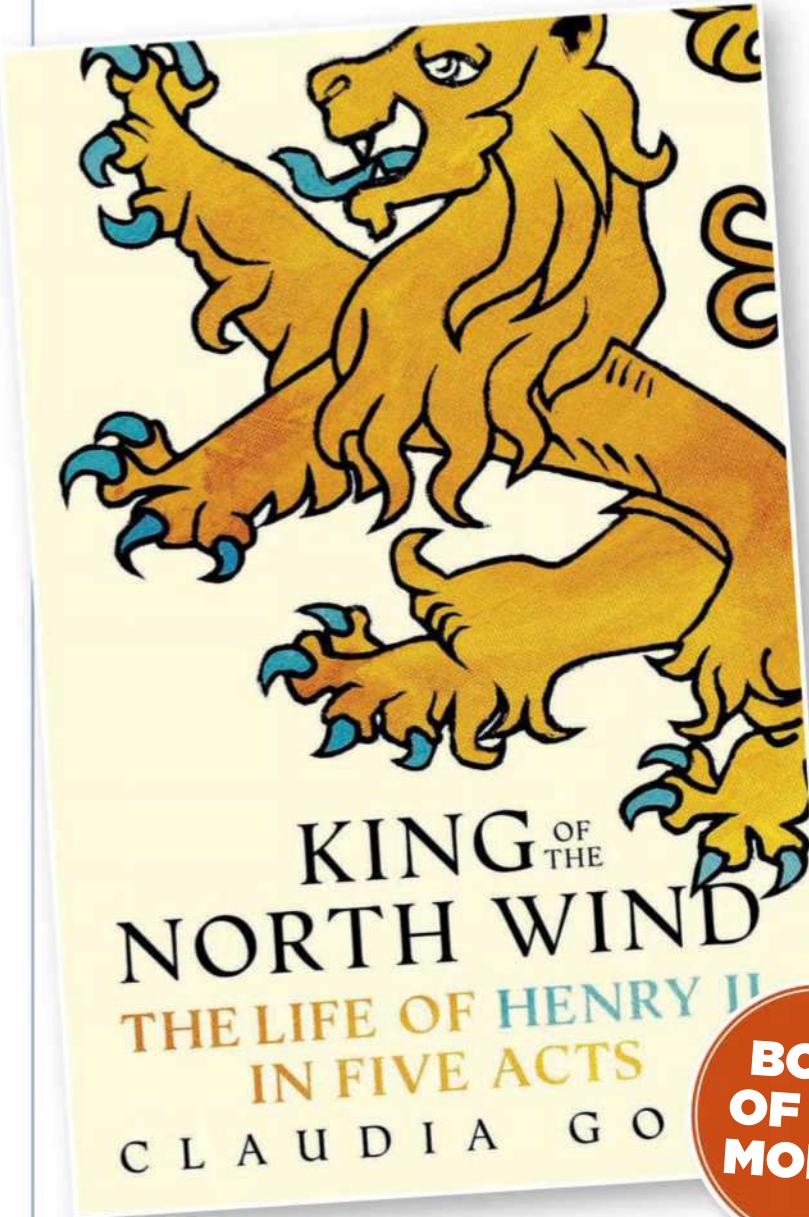
The wartime work at Bletchley resulted in huge strides in computing, so where better to trace the development of this world-changing technology?
www.tnmoc.org

MILTON KEYNES MUSEUM

A fascinating local museum, housed in a Victorian farmstead, with hundreds of hands-on objects and displays.
www.miltonkeynesmuseum.org.uk

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads



King of the North Wind: The Life of Henry II in Five Acts

By Claudia Gold

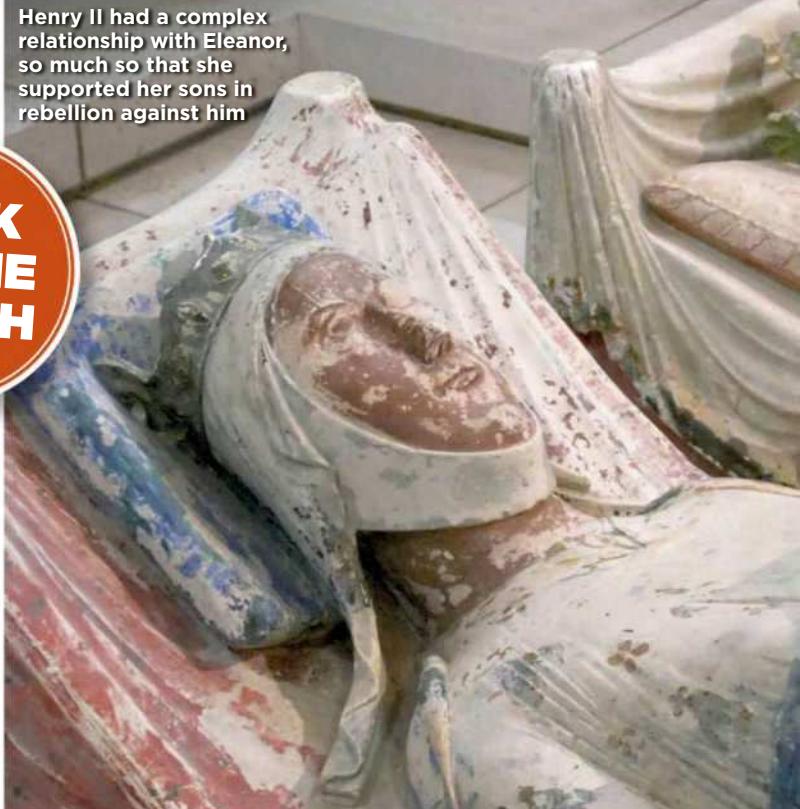
William Collins, £25, hardback,
352 pages

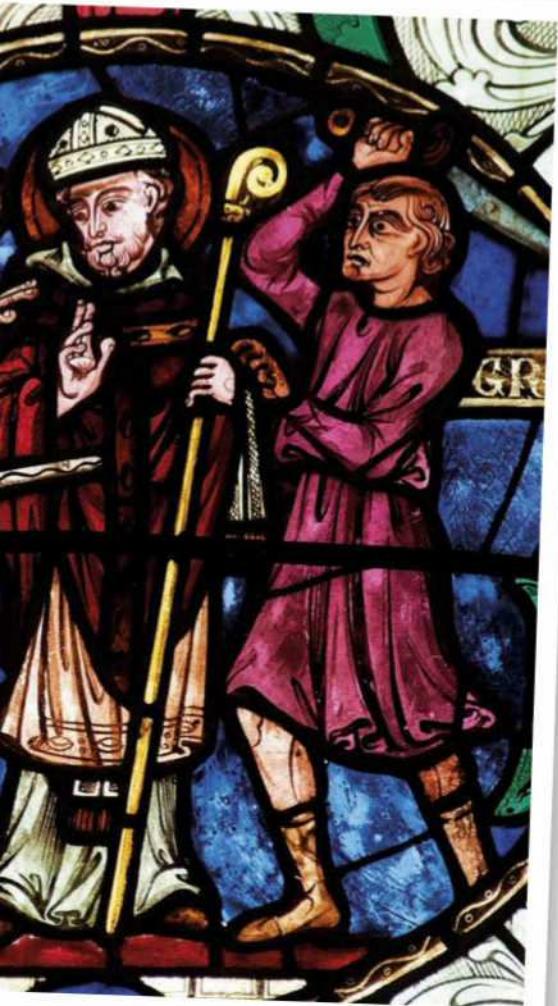
If you were asked to produce a list of Britain's most well-remembered monarchs, it's unlikely that Henry II would be near the top. Yet the medieval king, who ruled over England and Ireland, as well as parts of Wales, Scotland and France, between 1154 and 1189, is fascinating in his own right. As Claudia Gold's book reveals, he was a vivacious (and sometimes vicious) leader, determined to restore the crown to what he saw as its former glory. In that quest, he was largely successful – and then it all went wrong. This is an insightful, accessible introduction to a king who is often unfairly overlooked.

Henry II had a complex relationship with Eleanor, so much so that she supported her sons in rebellion against him

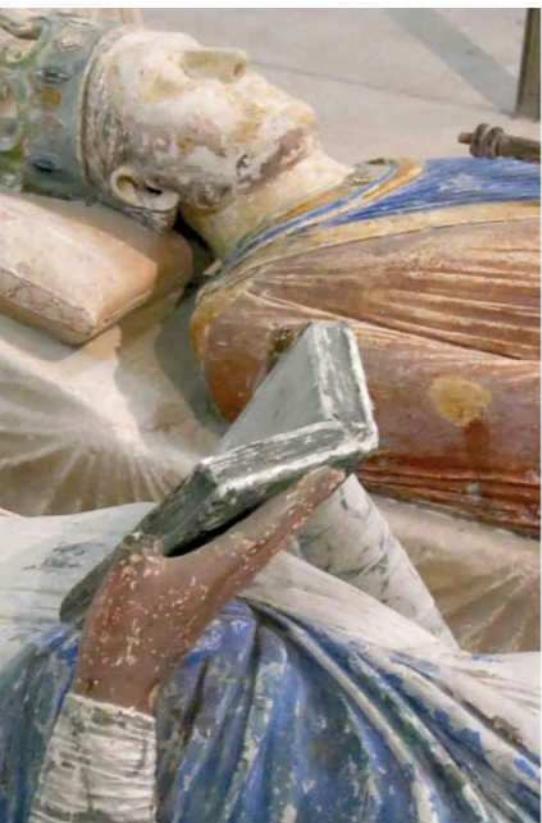
BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

“He was a vivacious (and sometimes vicious) leader, determined to restore the crown to its former glory”





Henry II's reign was blighted by the murder of Thomas Becket, his rival and the Archbishop of Canterbury



MEET THE AUTHOR

You've definitely heard of his sons Richard and John, but why are the life and deeds of Henry II so often glossed over? **Claudia Gold** hopes to open our eyes

What do you find particularly fascinating about Henry II?

Most of our monarchs were born to rule. A few have been good, many have been middling, and some have been bad. Henry II had to fight for everything, including the crown. He inherited an England financially destitute, broken by years of civil war. Yet he built huge reserves of wealth, doubled the empire's size, and created a court that was the most glittering in Europe. I was fascinated to discover who this man was, and how he achieved so much.

Why have you structured the book in five acts, and what are the headline events of Henry's life?

Henry had all the gifts of the gods. But like many outstanding leaders, he had his blind spots – most fatally, in his case, the failure to train a successor. Henry's life was like a great tragic drama that unfolded over five acts: the unstoppable ascent; the energy, ambition and extraordinary reforms of his early reign; a lapse of judgment in appointing Thomas Becket archbishop; rebellion, led by those he loved most; and, ultimately, nemesis.

Threading through it all was his relationship with Eleanor, the queen he stole from his arch-rival, Louis VII of France, with a promise that she would rule over the Aquitaine, her ancestral lands, in her own right. Had he only kept his word to Eleanor, Henry's reign might have ended as brilliantly as it had begun.

What impression do we get of Henry's personality?

When Henry walked into a room, he dominated it – not just because he was king, but through sheer force of his personality. He was clever, inquisitive, dynamic, a brilliant

general and a pursuer of justice for his people. He slept little, displayed calculated fits of rage, or charm, or diplomacy to get his way: all the qualities of a perfect prince. He had a great sense of fun, loved games, had many affairs, was superstitious and fidgeted in church. I would love to have met Henry, but dread the idea of working for him: few could match that relentless pace and energy.

Who were the key figures around him?

Henry was supremely self-confident and surrounded himself with able people. Two of the most important to him were women: his mother Matilda and his wife Eleanor. Matilda chose the finest scholars as his tutors and taught him statecraft. In the early years of marriage to Eleanor, theirs was a genuine partnership. It was only later, when he failed to heed Matilda's advice and when he trampled over his wife's wishes, that things began to unravel.

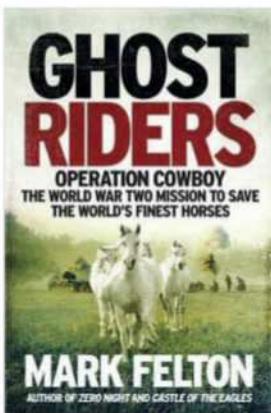


"Henry had all the gifts of the gods. But like many outstanding leaders, he had his blind spots"

What new view of the man and the period would you like your book to leave readers with?

Most people look a bit bemused when I tell them I have been writing about Henry II. They might recognise a few of the people around him – Thomas Becket, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard the Lionheart and 'bad' King John –

but of Henry himself, they know little or nothing. Possibly because of his part in Becket's murder, Henry has been obliterated from the popular canon of English history. To my mind, he was one of England's greatest monarchs. I would like to acquaint readers with Henry's story and let them decide for themselves whether they agree.



Ghost Riders: Operation Cowboy, the World War Two Mission to Save the World's Finest Horses

By Mark Felton

Icon Books, £20, hardback, 320 pages

Given the horrors of World War II, the fate of horses in Czechoslovakia and Austria may seem inconsequential. Yet the bid to rescue the animals from the Soviets was to draw the US military, POWs and German soldiers alike into a dramatic race against time.

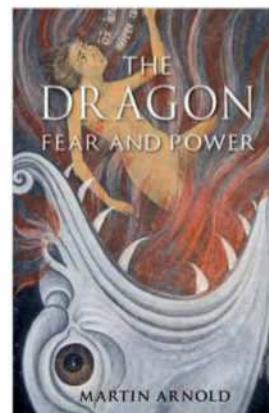


Milk! A 10,000-Year Food Fracas

By Mark Kurlansky

Bloomsbury, £18.99, hardback, 400 pages

Our uneasy relationship with milk is reflected by the recent explosion in non-dairy varieties, from oat and almond to rice and hemp. Yet, this new book argues, this tension is nothing new: indeed, by charting the white stuff's history from the first domesticated animals to the present day, Mark Kurlansky reveals the fraught global story of a substance we often take for granted.

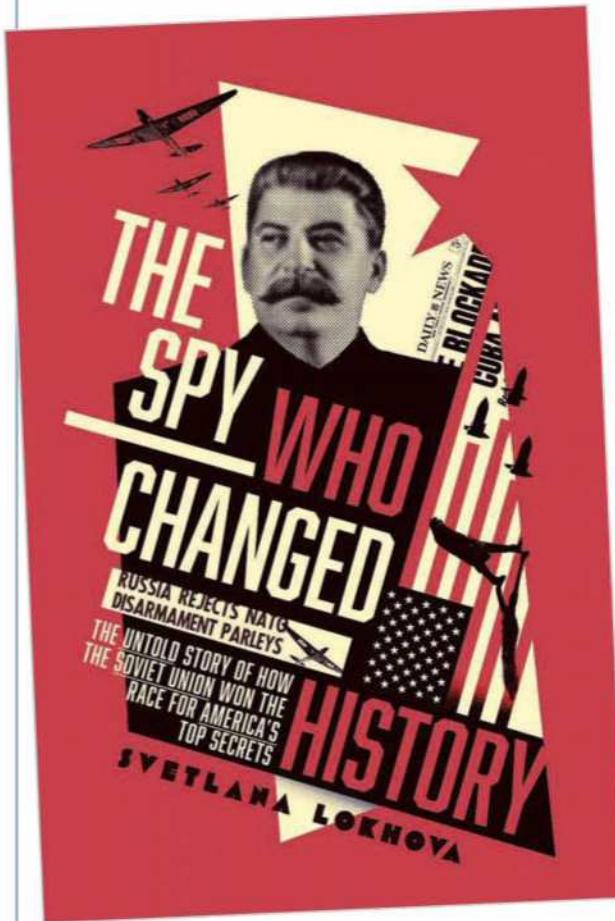


The Dragon: Fear and Power

By Martin Arnold

Reaktion Books, £18, hardback, 256 pages

From Norse mythology to *Game of Thrones*, dragons have soared through legend across continents and centuries. By turns scholarly and vivid (it's still hard not to be captivated by the stories themselves), this book travels from China to Scandinavia in a bid to track down the meaning behind the myth. Dragons, it seems, have at various times represented both authority and a threat to it.

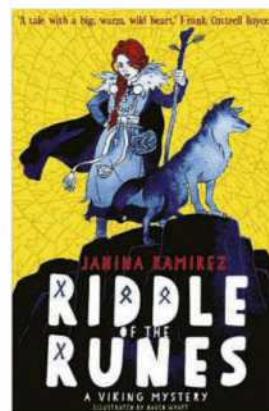


The Spy Who Changed History: The Untold Story of how the Soviet Union Won the Race for America's Top Secrets

By Svetlana Lokhova

William Collins, £20, hardback, 496 pages

When, in 1931, Stanislav Shumovsky headed to the US to begin classes at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was one of more than 60 Soviet students enrolling on courses around the country. Yet, rather more unusually, he was also a spy, who over the next two decades would feed industrial and military secrets back to Russia. This is an extraordinary story, skilfully told.

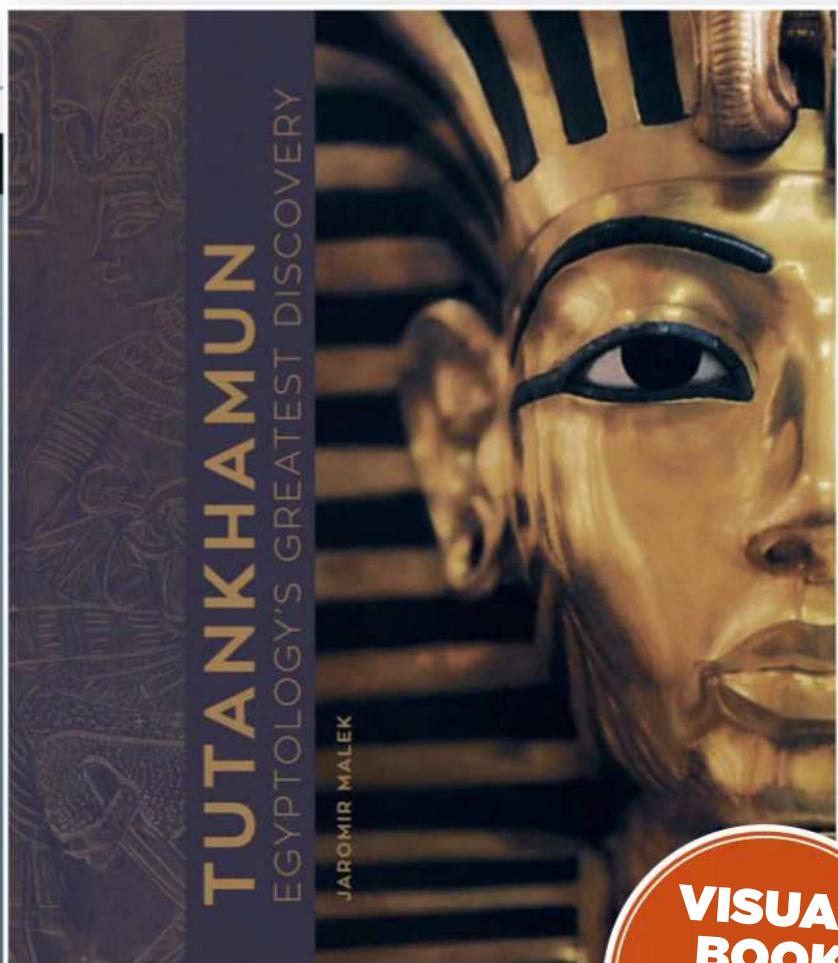


Riddle of the Runes: A Viking Mystery

By Janina Ramirez

Oxford University Press, £6.99, paperback, 256 pages

The popular – and infectiously enthusiastic – historian and TV presenter Janina Ramirez branches out into children's fiction with this book set in the Viking world. Mixing history with mystery, it follows Alva, a young shield maiden in the fictional village of Kilsgard who sets out to uncover a family secret – and searches for treasure along the way...



VISUAL
BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

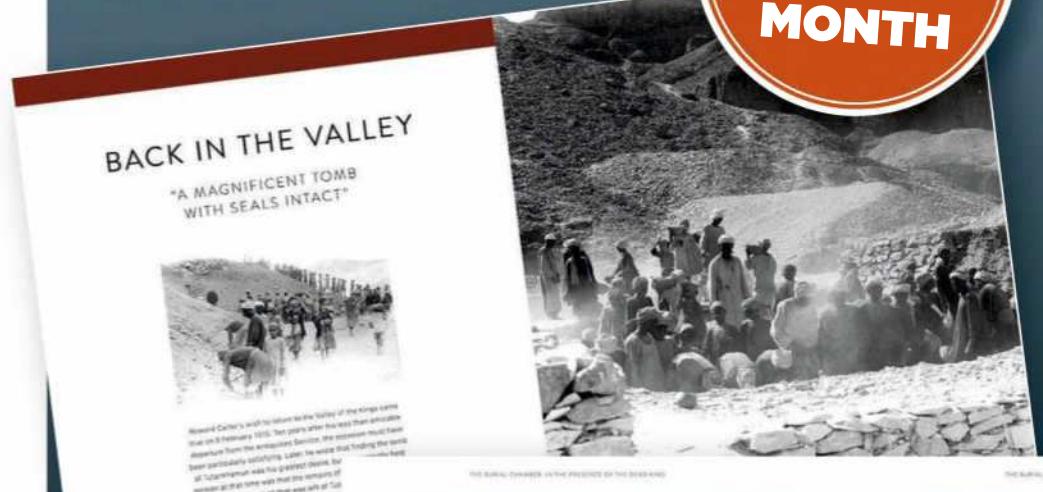
Tutankhamun: Egyptology's Greatest Discovery

By Jaromir Malek

Andre Deutsch, £25, hardback, 160 pages

Given the splendour of the discoveries made when Tutankhamun's tomb was unearthed in 1922, it'd be hard to produce a dull illustrated history of the Egyptian pharaoh's story. Yet this striking guide doesn't just coast on those glories, instead exploring a diverse range of subjects, from the society in which the Boy King lived to the team that, centuries later, excavated his final resting place.

"This striking guide doesn't just coast on the glories of Tutankhamun's tomb"



BACK IN THE VALLEY

"A MAGNIFICENT TOMB WITH SEALS INTACT"



Howard Carter's team return to the Valley of the Kings some time in November 1925. Ten years after the less than admirable discovery of the Antechamber, Carter's team had made their breakthrough, finding the sealed tomb of Tutankhamun was his greatest achievement. The discovery at that time that the memory of found in 1922 were all that was left of Tutankhamun's tomb.



The west wall has a "figures" scene, showing the deceased in a姿態 in the King's company through the Underworld with the Akhau, a ruler, standing behind him.

From all the scenes in the Burial Chamber was taken up by representations that protected the King's mummified body. The mummified mummy was being led in back in the rear scene, dressed, with the arms raised, in a姿態. The mummy was then followed by a姿態 in a squatting, kneeling position. The whole assembly was covered by a series of three inner shrouds running from the mummy, the second

is kneeling, a figure for a decorative pall, and a massive outer shroud.

The various objects were depicted in the scenes, such as the deities and the gods of the Burial Chamber, most notably is number eleven that were placed there in the north wall in reference to a religious spell in one of the "Book of the Dead". These include the Amduat, the Book of the Dead, the Book of the Gates, and the Book of the Underworld.



THE FIGURES REPRESENTED IN THE WALL PAINTINGS

KING AKH

Akh was Tutankhamun's representation of his mummified self, who came to life in the afterlife as a mummified royal man. His mummy buried by Carter and his team in the Burial Chamber of Tutankhamun's tomb.

THE GODDESS HATHOR

Hathor was one of the most popular goddesses worshipped in ancient Egypt. She is the first of a row. This row consists of the four deities of the Thothan temple.

THE GOD ANUBIS

Anubis, mummy shrouded buried or in a sarcophagus, was the god of the necropolis and embalming.

The tome draws on the personal archives of Howard Carter to bring life to the discovery of Tut's tomb

Opposite left: Tut's tomb during its excavation; "burying the tomb"; amulets at the doorway of the chamber; Tutankhamun's mummy.

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THE LIZARD LIGHTHOUSE, CORNWALL

“ I never grow tired of wandering the stretch of coastline between Kynance Cove and the Lizard in Cornwall. This rugged coast has seen many shipwrecks in the past, so the Lizard Lighthouse is still a very impressive and important part of the peninsula. It was built by private entrepreneur Thomas Fonnereau in 1751 and marks the most southerly point of mainland Britain. **”**

Taken by: David Gregory [@_d_g_photography](#)



PREDJAMA CASTLE, SLOVENIA

“ Clifftop castles are one thing, but a castle *in* the cliff? Fantastic! The most famous resident of this rather formidable bastion – boasting a secret river entrance and unlimited fresh water, which filters through the rocks above – was Erazam Lueger, a 15th-century knight said to be cut from the same cloth as Robin Hood. When he was inevitably besieged, he held out for more than a year, coming to a sticky end only after one of his men betrayed him.

Taken by: Oscar Olivieri, via email



BANQUETING HOUSE, LONDON

“ The only remaining part of the Palace of Whitehall after the devastating fire of 1698, the Banqueting House – or rather, its ceiling – really takes your breath away. Depicting the absolute power and divine right of the monarchy, it’s poignant that the palace was the site of Charles I’s execution.

Taken by: Louise Bennet, via email

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Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.
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READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

RUNNING WILD

I have greatly enjoyed reading your remarkable magazine for the past year and a half, and it has been a delightful companion on train journeys and such. It is not only a fun read, but an educational one. The articles have given me a new outlook on history. As I was skimming

LETTER OF THE MONTH

"I was not interested in the Wild West; now I have discovered a new world"

through some of my oldest magazines, I noticed the Billy the Kid piece (April 2017). Before I re-read it, I was not interested in the Wild West; however, now I have discovered a new world of danger and notoriety.

I would like to thank all who work at the magazine for letting me access history.

Keir Harper,
via email

Editor's reply

Thank you very much for



BLOODY AND BRIEF

Though he was one of the Wild West's most famous faces, Billy the Kid's career as an outlaw lasted only four years

your letter, Keir. We're thrilled that you enjoy the magazine and that it has unlocked parts of history that you were unfamiliar with. Keep

an eye out for our future features: who knows what we might tackle next?

Keir wins a hardback copy of *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Third Reich* by Robert Gellately. It's an accessible approach to the complex evolution of Hitler's Germany, from the Nazis coming to power in 1933 through to their collapse in 1945.

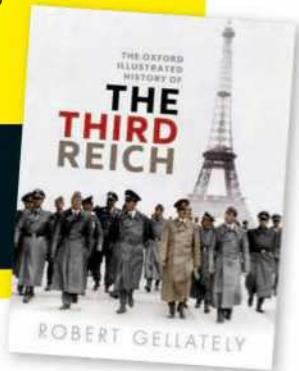


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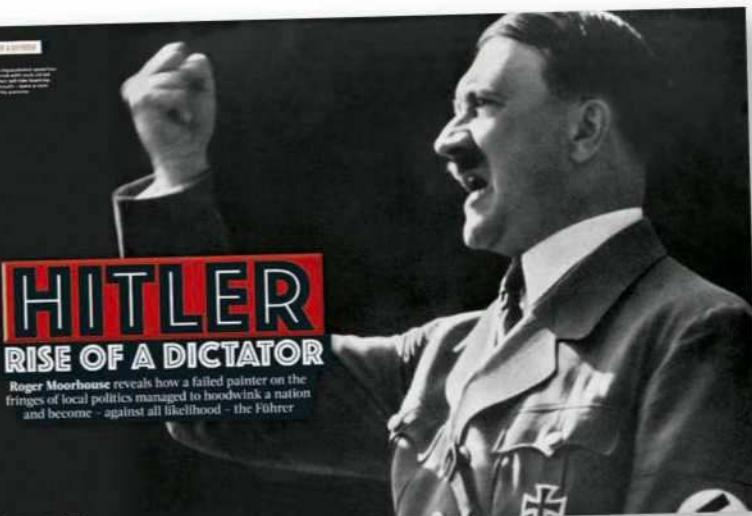
I was completely fascinated and disturbed by the Hitler feature (June 2018) in equal measure. We often see images of the Nazis where they have presented themselves as a clearly identifiable brand, and the visual element – their uniforms, flags, swastikas, marches, etc – is clearly a constructed way of glorifying themselves. However, it's amazing to see the photos showing Hitler practising his poses. Though strangely mesmerising, they also show how he was creating a fabricated image of himself before he even came to absolute power; that he had a long-term vision on how important presentation was to get the people on his side. That he used coaches to perfect his image

is certainly disturbing, but shows that he had a goal of creating an identifiable brand early on in his march to power, in the full knowledge that a strong visual identity can create something that the German people wanted to identify with and were unfortunately proud of.

Lisa Antrobus,
via email

AN IMPORTANT DUTY

I hope you will be interested in this response to your A-Z of the Toilet (June 2018). There would, at first sight, be absolutely no connection between London's 'Great Stink' of 1858 and a modest Methodist chapel at Penpol, near Truro in Cornwall, but one does exist.



STAGE MANAGED

Hitler and his advisers tested which poses and gestures best suited his message

f The article about the Teddy Boys (June 2018) was a walk down memory lane. I was a nipper in the '50s, but was told to stay away from those evil folks. Who knew they liked the same things I like now, jazz and rock and roll? Mark McKenzie

Superb article in @HistoryRevMag about the evolution of castles – great for Norman invasion and @Edexcel GCSE Warfare course #historyteacher #Castle @MrJPteach

In writing the history of our local chapel, I discovered that one of its trustees, Thomas White, whose working life included being a school master and an accountant, left Cornwall in the 1870s and moved to Woolwich, London. The 1881 Census describes White as a 'Flusher, Northern Outfall', an occupation that intrigued me. I established that he lived on site and the work of a 'flusher' was to ensure that sewer blockages did not occur and that effluent flowed as it should.

The Northern Outfall sewer ran from Wick Lane in Hackney to the Beckton Sewage Treatment works in east London, part of the complex operation masterminded by civil engineer Joseph Bazalgette to build over 1,000 miles of sewers in the wake of the Great Stink.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, by the time of the 1891 Census White

KING OF THE CASTLES

What are your favourite castles?
Write in and let us know!

had given up that job, moved to Barking, Essex, and had become a time keeper in a local factory.

Dr John Lander,
via email

CHILDHOOD DREAM

Julian Humphrys' castle features (July 2018) were an incredible set of revelations concerning the construction and perception of a complex system of attack and defence.

I loved dreaming about these structures as a child and drawing them in art classes. In my imagination, they were exciting and adventurous, everything a child might want

to be a part of, from Arthur's Camelot to Ludwig II of Bavaria's castles in the air.

Of course, with innovations such as the cannon, the death knell sounded and the time of the classic castle came to an end, but as Julian says in his excellent series of articles, the castle evolved into more of a country mansion. I would say that Nottingham Castle is a prime example of a latter. At the opposite end, York, with its strong defences and stout walls, is an example of a castle along traditional lines.

Duncan McVee,
via email

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Bringing the past to life

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PUBLISHING
Publisher David Musgrove
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Managing Director Andy Marshall
CEO Tom Bureau

Basic annual subscription rates
UK £64.87 Eire/Europe £67.99
ROW £69.00

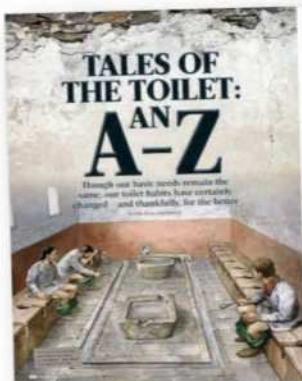
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The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 55 are:

M Buchanan, Glasgow
Carol Patrick, Wisbech
Barbara Cumberland, Derby

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *I Know a Woman* in hardback, RRP £20. This illustrated collection of biographies tells the stories of some of the most influential women in the world, and highlights the myriad ways they influenced one another.

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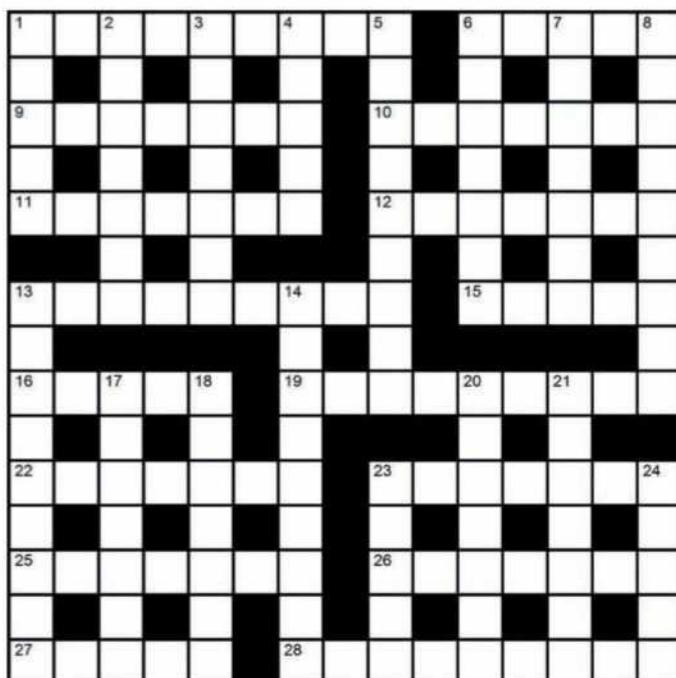


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CROSSWORD N° 58

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Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 1 Dancer loved by Quasimodo in Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback Of Notre-Dame* (1831) (9)
- 6 Frank ___ (1897-1991), Sicilian-American director (5)
- 9 Flanders city, home of the world's oldest stock-exchange building (7)
- 10 Naval rank supposedly derived from the ancient Arabic term amīr al-bahr (7)
- 11 Piccadilly hotel opened in 1906 (3,4)
- 12 Militant religious movement of Afghanistan, active from the mid-1990s (7)
- 13 Ancient Greek tragedian, reputedly killed by a falling tortoise (9)

- 15 Council of ___, Catholic Church conference held between 1545 and 1563 (5)
- 16 ___ At The Gates, 1973 book by William Craig about the Battle for Stalingrad (5)
- 19 In Northern Ireland, a member of a Protestant fraternal lodge; historically, a follower of William III (9)
- 22 Ancient city captured by the First Crusade of 1098 (7)
- 23 First sultan of Egypt and Syria (1137-1193), known in full as Salah al-Din Yusuf ibn Ayyub (7)
- 25 Daniel ___, 1876 novel by George Eliot (7)
- 26 Ralph ___ (1913-94), African-American writer best known for his 1952 novel

Invisible Man (7)

27 In medieval England, a magistrate or other officer of the state (5)

28 Mutiny On ___, 1935 film starring Clark Gable and Charles Laughton (3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Middle name of William Gladstone (1809-98) (5)
- 2 Christian charity founded by Mary Sumner in 1876 (7)
- 3 ___ Pact, 1935 US agreement also known as the Treaty on the Protection of Artistic and Scientific Institutions and Historic Monuments (7)
- 4 Capital city of Bolivia, founded in 1548 (2,3)
- 5 Youngest daughter of Tsar Nicholas II, murdered in 1918 (9)
- 6 The court of King Arthur (or of JFK?) (7)
- 7 Moral tale, such as the story of the prodigal son (7)
- 8 County of Virginia where the US National Cemetery was founded in the 19th century (9)
- 13 Name of three kings of medieval Scotland (9)
- 14 Nickname given to Richard I (1157-99) (9)
- 17 In Greek myth, one of the nine Muses (7)
- 18 Former trading post established as capital of the independent Republic of Cameroon in 1961 (7)
- 20 ___ Galilei (1564-1642), Italian polymath (7)
- 21 James ___ (1751-1836), US Founding Father and fourth president (7)
- 23 Military blockade, as seen at Leningrad, Yorktown and Ladysmith (5)
- 24 French city liberated by the US Third Army in September 1944 (5)

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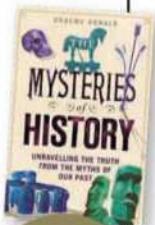
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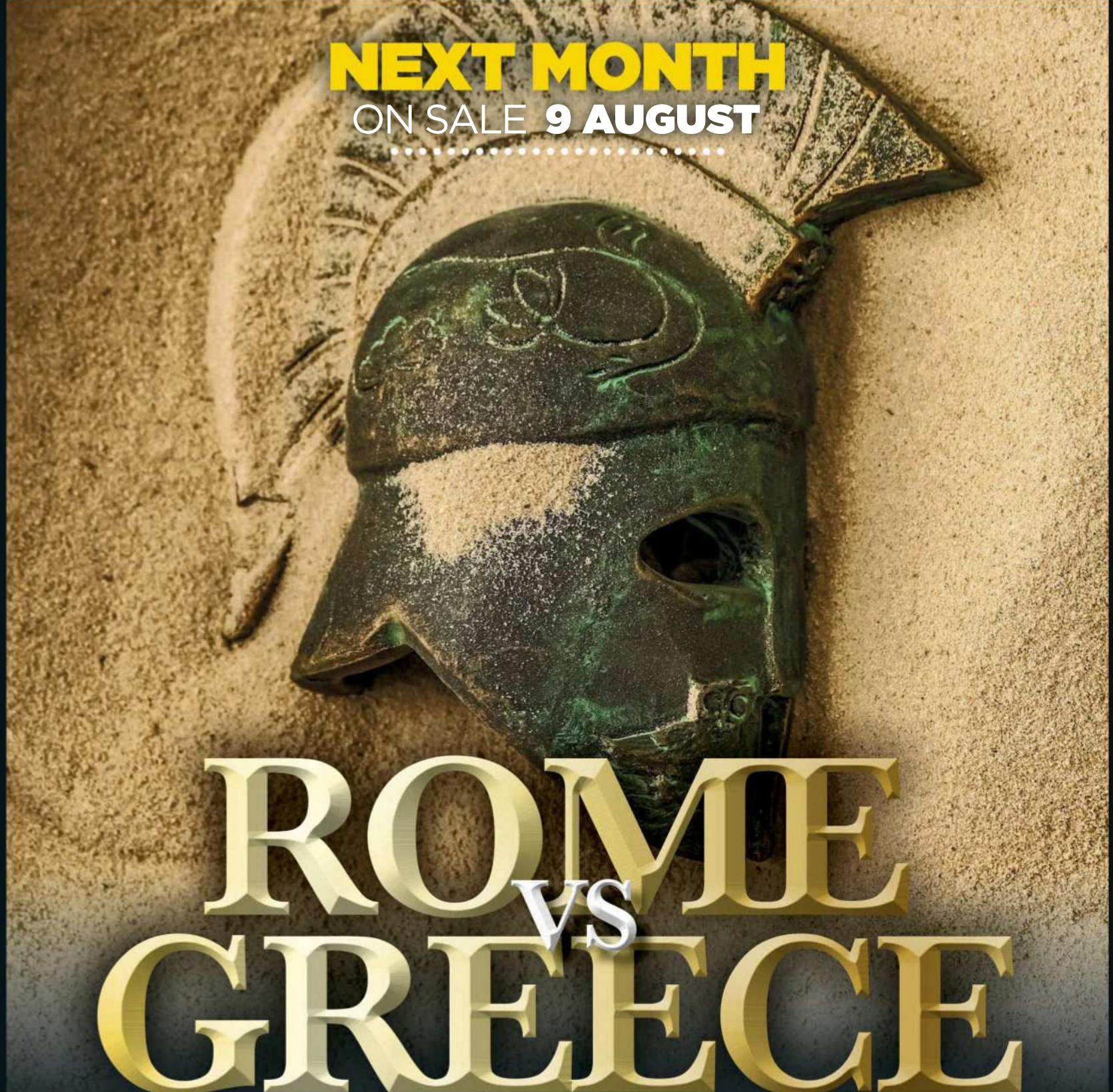
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BARCELONA, 1982

This photo is the stuff of football legend: Argentinean playmaker Diego Maradona, arguably one of the greatest players of all time, takes on six Belgians during the opening match of the 1982 World Cup in Spain. The shot was taken by photographer Steve Powell, on his first assignment for *Sports Illustrated*, from a seat up in the gods – but all is not as it seems thanks to Powell's perspective. Maradona has just received a slow pass from a free kick; the Belgians aren't desperately trying to close him down, but breaking out of a wall. Maradona doesn't even try to go through them – and his imminent cross is easily cleared. To cap it off, the Argentines lose the match 1-0.

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*& Car insurance from £199.70**

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Or pop into your local Age UK[‡]

**Age UK Home and Car Insurance are administered by Ageas Retail Limited.
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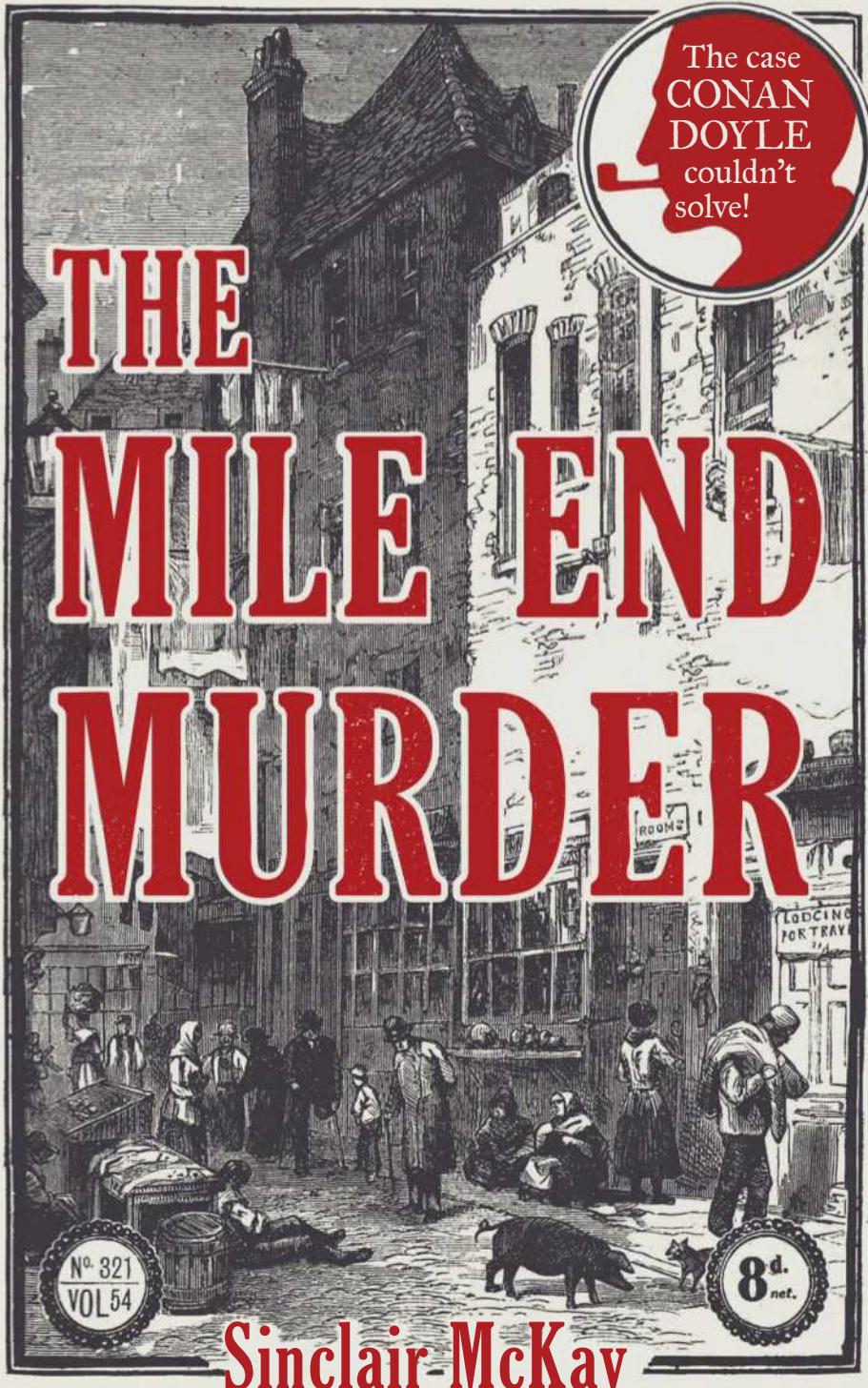
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*10% of all new customers buying an Age UK Home Insurance Buildings & Contents policy starting between July and December 2017 paid £164.17 or less (includes insurance premium tax at the applicable rate) and 10% of all new customers who took out a Comprehensive car insurance policy starting between July and December 2017 paid £199.70 or less (includes insurance premium tax at the applicable rate). The premium you pay will depend on individual circumstances, the cover chosen and optional extras selected.

[†]If you call the 0800 numbers and your local office is not available, your call will be answered by Age UK Enterprises Limited or Ageas Retail Limited.

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